

REIKO SHIMIZU

JETS COMICS

秘

密



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THE TOP SECRET

清水 8 玲子

JET
COMICS

秘密

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8

清水玲子

1004838
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THE TOP SECRET

REIKO SHIMIZU

8



秘 トップ・シークレット 密

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REIKO SHIMIZU

秘 トップ・シークレット 密

2009

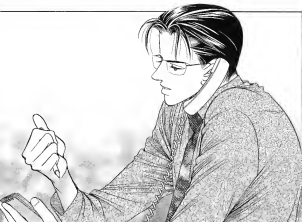
特別編

一期一会 A once-in-a-lifetime chance

THE TOP SECRET



秘 2009 密
THE TOP SECRET



Google

bars info ranking

Search

LOOK, ISN'T THAT ONE NICE?
IT HAS A PRIVATE ROOM
FOR UP TO TEN PEOPLE,
AND ESTIMATE FOR ONE
PERSON IS 4800YEN.
IT HAS A REASONABLE
PRICE, AND SERVES GOOD
PASTA TOO...

HEM,
LET'S SEARCH
FOR SWEA...
SHINJUKU...
AND GHEYUA

OH, NO.
OKABE-SAN
DOESN'T LIKE
WESTERN FOOD,
SO IT HAS TO
BE JAPANESE
OR CHINESE...

April
6th,
2062

UM...

HEY,

OR THIS
ONE...
IT'S A BIT
FAR FROM
THE STATION
THOUGH...

EH...

AND THIS ONE...
BUT IT'S IN
GHEYUA...
EVERYONE WILL BE
COMPLAINING THAT
IT'S HARD TO
WALK THERE,
OR THAT IT'S
JUST KIDS
THERE...

NO,
I'M NOT
GOING,
BUT...

YES, SO
OKABE-SAN
SAID THAT
YOU'RE ALSO
INVITED!

THIS DRINKING
PARTY IS HELD
TO CELEBRATE
YOUR
ENGAGEMENT,
RIGHT?

NO MORE
WASTES THE
PASTOR. IT'S FOR
THE SAKURA PARTY



この日の日本料理
☆☆☆☆☆ 4.07
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1111 09 1 4-0
アツシ 1111 1111

お祝い(お祝い 大前)

THAT'S
BECAUSE I'M
THE YOUNGEST
SUBORDINATE...

STILL...

WHY ARE YOU,
THE GUEST
OF HONOR,
IN CHARGE OF
ORGANIZING
EVERYTHING?

YOU'RE ALWAYS
RUNNING ERRANDS,
GETTING EQUIPMENT
AND THE LIKE.

IT'S FINE!

IT DOESN'T
INTERFERE
WITH MY
WORK,

AND IT'S
A NICE
CHANGE OF
PACE TOO.

AH!

...IF YOU'RE
ALRIGHT WITH IT
THEN IT'S OKAY,
BUT...



Imanawa-style
udon
noodles



Udono-san
really
acts diff. to I
remembered.
(It was quite
surprising
about too)

Earlier,
when we
ate lunch
together,
Maki-san
ordered those—

スエヒロ
—20件を表示/全1341—



Imanawa-style Udon

ツルツとした麺と、弾力のある
しめに最適な、あつさり揚げのき
本店おすすめメニューです。

コスパを見る—他の



辻寛之 4番取り

肴酒を味わう！米のうまみ
伝わる実酒を各種取り揃
じっくり淹も書いて呑みた
コスパを見る

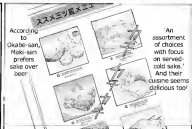
からし醬

揚げのケツラ肉
からし醬みそでコ
各種ク



Maybe
if it's in
a place
like
this he
would...

Maki-san
never
came to
our
drinking
parties
before,
but...



According
to
Okabe-san,
Maki-san
prefers
sake over
beer

'An
assortment
of choices
with focus
on served-
cold sake.'
And their
cuisine seems
delicious too!



WELL,
I'M NOT FROM
THE POLICE SO
IT'S PROBABLY
NOT FOR ME TO
SAY, BUT...

...Maybe
he would
...

SPECIAL AS THE
ELITE 'NINTH' MIGHT
BE, YOU MUST BE
THE ONLY INSPECTOR
IN WHOLE JAPAN TO
STILL BE RUNNING
SHOPPING FOR
LATE-NIGHT SNACKS!

ACK-
KUN?

EVEN IF YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST,
YOU'RE STILL AN INSPECTOR
IN RANK! IN A SMALLER
DEPARTMENT, AN INSPECTOR
WITH THE SAME AGE AS YOU
WOULD BE A SECTION CHIEF
ALREADY! LOTS OF REGULAR
POLICEMEN AND ASSISTANT
INSPECTORS ARE PUSHING
OTHERS AROUND WHILE SITTING
AROUND ALL COOKY! DON'T YOU
THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG
HERE?



'LET'S TRY
THAT NEXT
TIME!'

'SURE.'

'IT'S A DELICACY,
YOU CAN'T JUST
EAT IT ANYTIME!
AND IT GOES
WELL WITH SAKE
TOO!'

BLOWFISH
ROE? WHAT'S
THAT,
IS IT
COOKY?



Blowfish Roe
(pictured above)

We also serve other delicacies such as
suy-pickled squid, and nabi-be salmon.





Inaniwa Style Udon

Other popular choice is our delicious homemade tofu.

**Ginza
'Iori'**

**WHICH
ONE
...?**



Blowfish roe
(pictured above)

We also serve other delicacies such as soy-pickled squid, and run-be salmon.

**Shinjuku
'Oukaya'**





THANKS
GOD!
I REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
WHICH
ONE TO
CHOOSE!

FUGU THAT
YOU WANTED
TO EAT,
OR UDON,
THAT YOU
ALWAYS
LIKED!

MAKI-
SAN!



WHICH...





THAT'S
NOT MY
POINT,
SUGA-
CHAN!

HE CAN SAY
SOME FUNNY STUFF
FOR A TOKYO UNI
LAW GRADUATE!
HE REALLY IS
THE WEIRDO THAT
CONFESSED TO YOU!

Next
day,
April
7th



'Helmet!'

THEN
I'LL DYE IT
THE SAME
CHESTNUT
COLOR AS
TSUYOSHI-
KUN!'

AND
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY,
DOCTOR?

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE-
IF HE REALLY
SLIPS IN THE
MIDDLE OF IT,
IT'S NO JOKE!
AND AREN'T YOU
THE ONE WHO
ENDS UP WORSE
OFF AFTER
BREAKING THE
ENGAGEMENT?

Lamb

What
is that
even?

HOW
DID THAT
Happen?

There
no
problem

'AND IF
THIS TIME
YOU MISTAKE
US IN BED,
I'M BREAKING
OFF OUR
ENGAGEMENT!'



IT'S DATE
THAT YOU
SHOULD
NOT
PASS
UP.

DOCTOR,



BUT IT'S
NOT SOME
OTHER GUY,
IT'S THAT

'MAD-
SAN'...



BUT HE DID
MISTAKE
YOU ONCE,
RIGHT?

TSUYOSHI-
KUN IS A
GUY!



IDIOT!
OF
COURSE
HE
WOULDN'T
MISTAKE
ME FOR
HIM...

EXACTLY,
IT'S YOUR
WEIRD GUY!
FINALLY, AFTER
SUZUKI-SAN!
I'M REALLY
JEALOUS
ACTUALLY,
BUT I CAN
TELL YOU ONE
THING...

YEAH,
HE'S A BIT
WEIRD,
THIS GUY...

AKI-SAN IS STILL
24 YEARS OLD ELITE
CAREER MAN WITH
A TOKYO UNI LAW
DEGREE, HE'S OVER
6.2FT TALL AND HE
HAS A NICE AND HONEST
PERSONALITY. EVEN
WITHOUT YOU DOCTOR,
HE WOULD HAVE HIS
CHOICE IN WOMEN,
AND YET HE
PROPOSED TO
YOU HIMSELF.

I
FORGOT
...

IN A FEW
MONTHS
YOU'RE
TURNING
36,
AREN'T
YOU?

NO
MATTER WHAT,
YOU CAN'T LET
THIS WEIRDLY
GOOD GUY GO!



Physchi
"Mekko"
has a
bad
luck
with
men.



BECAUSE YOU
WON'T FIND ANOTHER
LIKE THIS!

She spent the following
two years lamenting the
drought of proper gentlemen,
and before she realized it,
she was already fast
approaching her forties.



Man who seriously
considered marrying
her died at a young
age of 33.



It would be a lie to
say that no man
caught her attention
during that time,
but she stayed in
denial of her feelings.





JUST
BEFORE A
SCHEDULED
CONFERENCE

AOKI
INFORMED ME
OF EVERYTHING.
NOT TO MENTION

YES, I
KNOW.

ACTUALLY...
E... UH...
I'M...



'CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
ENGAGEMENT,'

'DOCTOR
MIYOSHI
YUKIKO.'

D
i
n
g

HE'S NOT
THAT.

WA...





WAIT!



I think usually in this kind of pose the man and the woman are the other way round



AT LEAST LET ME EXPLAIN, TSUYOSHI-KUN!

WAIT...



Uwah, It's been a while since I last saw him from this close...



It's not some other guy. It's that 'Maki-san'!

'But...





Somehow,
now I'm
even
more...

EXPLAIN?

WHY WOULD
YOU WANT TO
EXPLAIN YOUR
CHANGE OF
HEART TO-
WARDS AKI
TO ME?

IS THAT
NOT FOR
SUZUKI?

SORRY,
BUT COULD
YOU LET ME
THROUGH?

ARE
YOU...

ARE YOU
SAYING I'M
DISLOYAL?

I WAS
CALLED BY
THE DIRECTOR—
IT'S PROBABLY
ABOUT THE
MINISTER'S
DAUGHTER
KIDNAPPING
CASE, SO...



ARE YOU
ACCUISING ME
OF BETRAYING
KATSUHIRO-
KUN?



EVEN
THOUGH
YOU...



I
mustn't!

...YOU
WERE...

...YOU ARE
THE ONE
WHO...

...FROM
ME...



I mustn't
say anything
more!



Katsu-
hiro-
kun!

Katsuhiro
-kun!!



Maki-kun!
Hey!
Somebody
take him
outside!

Maki-kun!
Let go of
the body!



Get
out!



And don't
you set foot
in this house
ever again!



I mustn't
cry in
front
of him
anymore.

No
more,



I mustn't
hurt him
with this
blade
anymore.



No
more,

I
mustn't
cry no
more....!!

I'M
SORRY.





Even if we
extended
our hands,
we'd hurt the
other as if it
were knives...

Even if we
were to
embrace,
to console
each other...



It'd only
end in a
blood spill...

We...



April
24th.

Ginza
'Iori'

LET'S RAISE
TO TOAST TO
CONGRATULATE
AKI ON HIS
TOO SOON
ENGAGEMENT.
AND FOR SAFELY
RESOLVING
THE KIDNAPPING
CASE!

CHEE—

That's why,
he's the only
person I
absolutely
cannot get
close to...



Ever.









Partly because the chief who almost never shows up at the parties actually participated, and partly thanks to the safe closure of the 'Sendou Saei Abduction Case', everyone (including said chief) got into high spirits.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I WILL...!

That day,

YOU SHOULD ORDER SOMETHING TOO, NAKI-SAN!



OR
HOMEMADE
TOFU MARINATED
IN MISO,
OR INANIWA
UDON...

THIS PLACE IS
KNOWN FOR THEIR
GOOD CUISINE!
LIKE TUNA SHUUTO,
OR INANIWA
UDON...



YOU LIKED IT,
DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S WHY
I CHOSE
THIS PLACE...

I
THOUGHT
SO!

I DON'T
LIKE IT.

...DO YOU
WANT TO
MAKE ME EAT
THAT UDON?

NO! ONLY
IF THREE.



YOUR
MOUTH
WAS OPEN
CUTIE.

I JUST HAVE
A WEAK STOMACH,
SO I CAN'T EAT FATTY
THINGS DURING THE
INVESTIGATIONS.
EARLIER I ORDERED
IT BECAUSE THERE
WASN'T ANYTHING
ELSE I COULD EAT.

I DON'T
REALLY
LIKE IT.

I MISSED...



LEAVE THE
ICE DRESS
FOR LAST!
HOW ABOUT THIS
- BARBECUED
DANSEN CHICKEN,
OR MAYBE
GRILLED
CONGER FISH?

WELL THEN,
WELL THEN...

**AAH ARE YOU
DOING THIS ON
PURPOSE?**

CAN'T
HELP IT,
AKIO.

YEAH...
IT'D LIKE TO.
IT'S BEEN A
WHILE SINCE
I HAD ONE.

BY THE WAY,
YOU LIKED
BLOWFISH
RIGHT?

LET'S GO
EAT THAT
NEXT TIME!



LOOK,
THE STAFF IS
WORRIED THAT
WE'RE LETTING
A MINOR GET
DRUNK!

Someone
should
go and
explain
to them.



"Private
life"...



IT'S NOT
SUCH A
BIG DEAL.
HE'S
JUST
A
MINOR.

That's
not it.

WELL I
WILL
HE'S
TRAPPI
GIVING A
W?

NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT MAKI-SAN
IS LIKE WHEN HE'S
NOT INVESTIGATING
AT "THE MINT".
YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO
DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT HIS PRIVATE
LIFE LOOKS LIKE
OR WHAT HE
LIKES TO EAT.

RIGHT... I
DIDN'T KNOW
MAKI-SAN
COULD HOLD
HIS LIQUOR
THAT WELL...

He
downs
four and
saves one
after
another.

—Really looked
like a stranger
boy in his teens.

Maki-san who
appeared in his
casual clothes,
planning to
leave early to
meet with
someone.

What is he doing
on his days off?
What hobbies
does he have?
Has he got
any siblings?
What about
his parents?
Where is he from?

I've been working and
investigating side
by side with him
for over two years,
often staying at 'the
Ninth' for days at end.
I thought I more or
less knew him, but -

He leaves
'the
Ninth'
last,
and puts
on the
security.
I didn't
even
know
that the
section
chief

He comes
to work
first,
he eats
and takes
breaks in
the nap
room,
and he
never talks
about
anything
unrelated
to the
case...

I don't
know
anything.



I...
ISN'T THAT
AMAZING?

YEAH,
IT SEEMS
HE TOOK AN
INTEREST IN
THE MRI
INVESTIGATION
METHOD WITH
THE LAST CASE,
AND WANTS TO
HEAR A MORE
DETAILED EXPLA-
NATION.

NOT REALLY.
PRIME MINISTER
IS THE PERSON
ON TOP OF
THE NATIONAL
POLICE AGENCY,
A PART OF
WHICH IS
THE NINTH...

EHP?
A...
DI...

...Had a
private
life at all.



IT'S
EVEN LATE,
THINKING
ABOUT
THE FUTURE
PLANS
FOR OUR
DEPARTMENT.



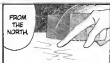
THE BLUEPRINTS
ARE ALMOST READY,
SO IT'S ABOUT TIME
I TOLD YOU.

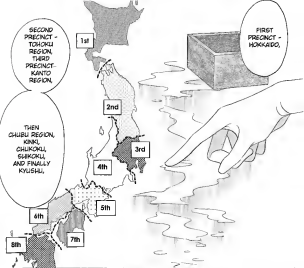


RIGHT.



...DIRECT
INTERVIEW
WITH THE
PRIME
MINISTER?!
YOU,
MAKI-SAN?





THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ARE
PRACTICALLY FINISHED.
IT'S STILL UNCERTAIN IF IT
TAKES TWO OR FIVE OR MORE
YEARS BEFORE IT'LL BE
POSSIBLE TO START CONDUCTING
INVESTIGATION FROM THERE,
BUT...

A TOTAL OF
EIGHT FORENSIC
POLICE RESEARCH
CENTERS OF
"THE NINTH"
LABORATORY WILL
BE ESTABLISHED
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY.

SOONER
OR LATER,
IT'LL HAPPEN.

AND
THEN,





YOU'LL
COMMAND
YOUR OWN
SUBORDINATES
AND TAKE
LEAD ON THE
INVESTIGATIONS
AS THE NEW
SECTION CHIEFS.



JUST AS
I AM NOW.



IT'S BEEN SAID FROM
THE START THAT
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR
"THE NINTH" AS IT IS NOW
TO SINGLEHANDEDLY
DEAL WITH ALL THE
ATROCIOUS CRIME
HAPPENING IN THE
COUNTRY.

opened
days in
surprise

...

EVEN IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE HIGH RATE OF CRIME IN KANTO REGION IT STILL SHOWS THE TENDENCY, THOUGH IT MAY BE SAID WE'RE IGNORING THE SUBURBS, IT'S STILL AN UNDISPUTABLE TRUTH.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, OF THE CASES HANDLED BY 'NINTH' UNTIL NOW, 85% TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE KANTO AREA.

IN UNFAMILIAR PLACES SUCH AS KYUSHU OR HOKKAIDO, WE CAN'T HANDLE THE CASES WITH 100% SPEED OR ACCURACY, RIGHT?

NO MATTER HOW 'SPECIAL' AND 'ALMIGHTY' WE MAY SEEM, WITHOUT THE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE ACTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT - THE REGIONAL POLICE OF EVERY PREFECTURE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR 'THE NINTH' TO ARREST THE CRIMINALS.

....DUE TO THE PUBLIC'S DEEP ROOTED DISTRUST AND ANTI-PATHY TOWARDS OUR DEPARTMENT, THE PLAN WAS REMAINING ON PAPER ONLY.

THEREFORE THE TOPIC WAS RAISED TO SPLIT INTO 8 PRECINCTS, BUT...

THERE WAS
NO CASE THAT'D
DEVIATE MORE
FROM THE MRI
INVESTIGATION
ETHICS...

IT SEEMS THAT
NOW THAT THE
RECOGNITION AND
EXPECTATIONS
TOWARDS MRI
INVESTIGATION
ROSE TO A
NEW LEVEL,
THE TOP BUNCH
DECIDED TO
FINALLY CARRY
THE PROJECT
THROUGH.

HOWEVER,
WITH THE
'SENDOU
(SAKI)
ABDUCTION
CASE' THE
SITUATION
CHANGED.

Rescue
Sendou
Saki-chan

Merely 7 hours in
the start of an
investigation
The Story

What is the 'The Nin
Forensic Laboratory'.

U..
UM..

ER.

WHEN
WAS THIS
PLAN
CONCEIVED
...?

EVEN
THOUGH...

WHAT A
FLIKE
IT IS.



WHY IS AOKI,
AN INSPECTOR,
FOREVER
RUNNING
ERRANDS
INSTEAD OF A
LOWER RANKED
POLICEMAN?

WHY DO
YOU THINK
IT'S NO ONE
BUT CAREER
INSPECTORS
AND SUPER-
INTENDENTS
HERE?



THAT'S WHY ALL
OF YOU HERE...

ALL OF THE
MEMBERS UNDER
MY COMMAND, ARE
PEOPLE THAT
COULD TAKE THE
SEAT AS THE
SECTION CHIEF.

THERE IS NO TIME
TO TEACH EVERYTHING
IN DETAIL TO OFTEN
TRANSFERRING GUYS
NOT ON TRACK FOR
HIGHER RANKS.

—AND THERE IS NO
GUARANTEE THAT
THEY'D BE ABLE TO
KEEP A SECRET.



PEOPLE THAT COULD TEACH
AND LEAD THEIR OWN LOT
OF SUBORDINATES IN MY
PLACE, FOR THE FUTURE
OF 'THE NINTH'.







WE'LL ALWAYS
BE WORKING
TOGETHER,
RIGHT?

IN THE
FUTURE
...

HERE,

IN
'THE
NINTH'
...

PER...
UM... THAT'S...
THAT SOMEDAY
MAYBE WE'LL
BECOME THE
SECTION CHIEFS
OF THE EIGHT NEW
DEPARTMENTS,
BUT...

DID YOU
HEAR WHAT
I JUST SAID?



EVEN THEN,
I'LL STILL...
EVEN AFTER
BECOMING A SECTION
CHIEF SOMEWHERE,
I'LL STILL BE ABLE
TO WORK TOGETHER
WITH YOU, RIGHT?



WITH
OKABE-SAN
AND
IMAI-SAN...



IN
THE
NINTH



HERE.



JUST
LIKE UNTIL
NOW...



WE'LL STILL
BE ABLE TO
WORK ALL
TOGETHER... ?

...
WON'T
WE?

.....



YOU DO REALIZE THAT IN
THE POLICE STRUCTURE,
TRANSFERRING BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT'S HAPPENS
OFTEN... IN WORST CASES,
TRANSFERRING PEOPLE
WITHIN LESS THAN A
MONTH IS A
COMMON-
PLACE...

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
REGULAR
CAREER
POLICEMEN!

BUT THIS
IS THE
NINTH...!

AKKI

.....

...

...IT ONLY HAS A
SELECT FEW ELITE,
STRICTLY KEEPING
THE SECRETS SO...
THE TRANSFERS
ARE RARE...

BECAUSE
IT'S
SPECIAL
LIKE
THAT...

THE NINTH
IS THE
ONLY SUCH
LABORATORY
IN THE
COUNTRY...

UNDER
MAKI-SAN WE'D
ALWAYS
SINGLEHANDEDLY
INVESTIGATE THE
HEINOUS CRIME
TOGETHER...

THAT'S WHY...
WITH OKABE-SAN,
IMAI-SAN AND
ALL THE OTHER
MEMBERS,



Even if
I don't
know
any
thing...



I'VE
...

THOUGHT
LIKE THAT
...

I'VE
ALWAYS
...

All of
these things
didn't matter
to me...

I didn't care.

It doesn't matter
where he lives,
who he loves...
Even if he
got married
and had kids...

Even if
I know
nothing about his
private
life...



In
the
morning
...

As
long
as...

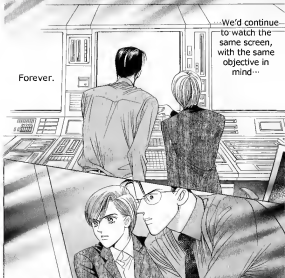
He'd
always be
there,
in 'The
Ninth'.



As long
as I could
investigate
under
him...

And
together
...





Forever.

...We'd continue
to watch the
same screen,
with the same
objective in
mind...



キ
ヤ



AOKI
....!

Staring
surprised
at my face.
Only then...

Hakiri-san and
Okabe-san...
Everyone
was...



Did I
realize
that I
was
crying.

WH
...









Who is
this person
resembling
Maki-san?

This person in
a pea coat
over a hoodie,
that bought
me a can of
coffee with
his spare
change?

Who is
sitting
next to
me?



I don't
know a
person with
such lovely,
childlike
expression.

I don't
know.

That's right.
This is the
first time I
see Maki-san
in private.

That
right.



Silently sat
next this crown
man in tears
for the longest
while.

Maki-san in
private,
not for work
and not as
my superior.



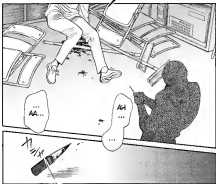
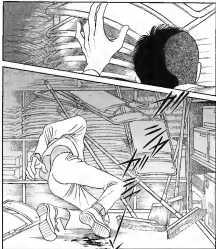
Because
he himself
wanted to.

R E I K O S H I M I Z U
T H E T O P S E C R E T













WHERE
IS YOUR
HOMEROOM
TEACHER,
DEZAKI-
SENSEI?

IS HE
LATE?



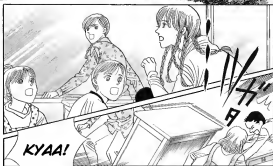
HUUM...
THE
JERSEY
IKUSHIMA
IS WEARING
SOME
FLOWER
PATTERN—



IT CAN'T BE HELPED,
HM... DO SOME SELF-
STUDY FOR NOW.

FLD-MER
PATTERN,
FLD-MER
PATTERN!





**STAY CALM!
GET UNDER
YOUR DESKS!**

**KEEP AWAY
FROM THE
WINDOWS!**

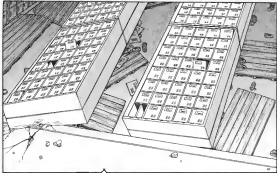
ARITA-KUN!

**TEACHER,
AN EARTH-
QUAKE! IT'S
AN EARTH-
QUAKE!**

KYAAA!

**AWAY
FROM
THE
WIN...**

KYAAA!!



We interrupt this broadcast to bring you a special news report.

Ping



ROLL-CALL!

The currently known seismic intensity is as follows: 6 points at Kanagawa prefecture Inna and Takasa cities. Five points at Kanagawa prefecture Kugata city...

Just moments ago, at 1:07pm a strong earthquake struck a wide area with an epicenter in the Kanagawa prefecture.

WHAT
ABOUT
CLASS B?
DEZAKI-
SENSEI!

CLASS S-C
IS ALSO ALL
PRESENT!

STAND IN
A ROW,
IT'S A
ROLL-CALL!

CLASS S-A
IS ALL
PRESENT!

AND
CLASS B?

DEZAKI-
SENSEI!

GATHER
THEM IN
A ROW!

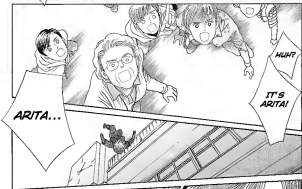
IKUSHIMA-
SENSEI!
WHERE
IS THEIR
HOMEROOM
TEACHER?

HE WAS THERE
WHEN I MADE A
ROLL-CALL IN
THE CLASSROOM

TEA-
CHER!

ARITA-
KUN
IS...

A...





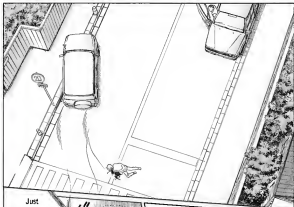
TEA-
CHER

100 P









Just moments ago, at 1:07pm a strong earthquake struck a wide area with an epicenter in the Kanagawa prefecture.

ガクガク...





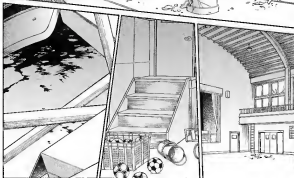
In Inna City,
struck at 6 points
intensity,
24 people were
injured due to
falling furniture
and crumbling
walls. In Takasa,
there were 17
injured.

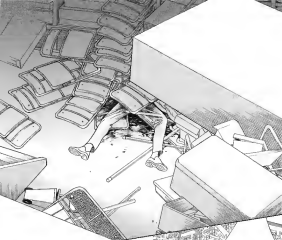
The current
damage
reports are
as follows:

154 homes
were
destroyed.
Landslides
occurred in 12
places. Cracks
on the roads
appeared in
8 places.

I
repeat...

Until now
we have
received no
reports of
fatalities.







AH...
MAKI-SAN,
PLEASE,
PLEASE
BRING US
OUR FIRST
CAREER
WOMAN TO
THE NINTH!

AND I PRAY,
LET IT BE
THAT LONG
HAired AYASE
SAB-CHAN
AND SO SHE
CAN SIT NEXT
TO ME!

IDIOT!
THERE WERE NO
FATALITIES THIS
TIME! WHAT DO
YOU WANNA
WATCH UNDER THE
MRI? IT MUST BE
ABOUT THE NEW
STAFF THAT'S
GONNA BE
HIRED!

KANA-
GAWA
POLICE?

COULD
IT BE
SOMETHING
RELATED TO
THE EARTH-
QUAKE
DISASTER?



IDIOTS, HUH... NOTHING
GOOD WOULD COME OUT OF
DATING A CAREER WOMAN.
THEY'D END UP COMPETING
FOR SUCCESS AND
PROMOTIONS...

AND EVEN IF IT
WID WORK OUT,
THEY ALREADY
KNOW THAT 'THE
NINTH' WILL BE
TAKEN APART.

SOMEHOW, WITH
THESE GUYS IT
FEELS LIKE A MISER...
OR RATHER, THEY
BELIEVE THAT THE NEW
STAFF WILL BE FEMALE,
WITHOUT A PLACE
FOR DOUBT...

EVEN IF
AYASE-
CHAN
JOINED US,
IT'S OBVIOUS
SHE'D BE
SITTING HERE!
SHEP WOULD
BE ABLE TO
SEE HER
PROPERLY!

WHY?
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!
WHEN
THERE ARE
NO LOVED
WOMEN,
IT'D BE NORMAL
THAT SHE
SITS IN THE
MIDDLE!

HAS A GIRLFRIEND
TEAM

NO GIRLFRIEND TEAM

ACTUALLY
CRIED
A LOT.

I'M NOT
CRYING!

DON'T
CRY...



People
change.
The
ways
people
think
change.

Their
relationships
as well.

*'Sooner
or later,
'the Ninth'
will be
taken
apart.'*



There is no
person in this
world that
doesn't change.
It's so obvious...

It's
impossible
to 'stay the
same',

Even
though I
understand
that well
inside
my head,
the intro-
duction of
the new
member to
'The Ninth'
doesn't
make me
feel excited
at all.

*The poll
is over - Agree*



It's such
an obvious
thing! Even
a kinder-
gartener
would gra-
duate after
few years
and then
create
new social
connections
for himself.

*'It will be taken
apart and then
established anew
in eight precincts
across the country.
And then the
current members
of 'the Ninth' will
be appointed as
section chiefs to
each of them.'*



...A countdown
to the Ninth's
dissolution.

It feels
like...

Kanagawa Prefectural
Public Safety Commission
Kanagawa Prefectural Police
Headquarters

EVEN THOUGH
IN INNA CITY
THAT WAS
STRUCK THE
STRONGEST,
IT ENDED UP
WITH NO
DEATHS AND
ONLY 137
INJURED?

THREE FATALITIES
IN TAKITSU CITY,
WHERE THE
EARTHQUAKE
INTENSITY WAS
5 POINTS?
-AND ALL OF THEM
WITHIN ONE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL?

HOW
ON
EARTH
?



JUST HOW
OUTWORN WAS
THAT SCHOOL
BUILDING...?

MMH-KUN...
SUPERINTENDENT
MAKI, COULD YOU
STOP MAKING
THIS KIND OF
EXCESSIVELY
SCARY FACE?

WE'RE
SORRY

THIS PERSON
IS NOT
RELATED TO
THE SCHOOL.

HE'S THE
HEAD OF
KANAGAWA'S
PREFECTURAL
POLICE

ANYWAY,

AND CHIEF,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE...





THE CAUSES OF DEATH ARE ALL DIFFERENT, SO IT'S UNCERTAIN IF THEY DIED AS A RESULT OF AN EARTHQUAKE OR NOT.

THE FIRST VICTIM FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM THE ROOF... IT WAS TEN MINUTES AFTER THE SHAKING HAD EASED.



ANOTHER ONE WAS A CHILD WHO JUMPED IN FRONT OF A CAR, APPARENTLY SCARED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.



AND THE LAST ONE WAS A TEACHER DISCOVERED UNDER THE FALLEN SHELVES AND VARIOUS SPORTS EQUIPMENT IN A GYM STORAGE ROOM, TWENTY MINUTES AFTER THE SHAKING HAD STOPPED. AN AUTOPSY IS BEING CARRIED OUT NOW.



WHETHER THE
THREE DIED
AS A RESULT
OF THE
EARTHQUAKE
DISASTER,

THE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE TWO MINORS' AND
A TEACHER'S DEATHS,
AS WELL AS THEIR TIMES
ARE ALL APPROXIMATE,
BUT THERE ARE TOO MUCH
UNEXPLAINED DETAILS TO
MARK THEM ALL OFF AS THE
DISASTER'S VICTIMS.



AN
ACCIDENT,



OR A
CRIMINAL
ACTIVITY,

AND
WHETHER
THERE WAS
ANY LINK
BETWEEN
THESE
CASES...

IS SOMETHING
I'D LIKE THE
NINTH TO
INVESTIGATE



IT WAS TAKEN
BY ONE OF THE
TEACHERS BEFORE
THE EMERGENCY
ARRIVED.

AFTER THE DEATH
CONFIRMATION IN
THE HOSPITAL,
THE BODY WAS
TRANSFERRED
OVER FOR AN
AUTOPSY, SO
WE ARE YET TO
RECEIVE ANY
OTHER PICTURES
OR THE RESULTS
FROM THE
CORONER.



WHO
TOOK
THIS
PICTURE?



IS
THERE
ANYTHING
WEIRD
ABOUT
IT?



NO... IT'S
JUST...

.....





SO...

IT'S JUST...

UNDER-
STOOD.



SORRY FOR MAKING YOU
TAKE THIS UP, EVEN
THOUGH YOU'RE ALWAYS
SO BUSY! AS SOON AS
THE AUTOPSY RESULTS
COME IN I'LL SEND
THOSE AS WELL...

AH, YES, OF
COURSE,
EVERYTHING
IS IN HERE!

THE NINTH
WILL ACCEPT
THIS CASE.
PLEASE
PROVIDE US
WITH THE
FORENSIC
RESULTS AND
CRIME SCENE
INVESTIGATION
REPORT ETC.







ENTRY TO THIS FLOOR IS PROHIBITED TO ANYONE NOT RELATED TO THE INVESTIGATION...

SORRY,

—AOKI!

NO, I'M...

FROM TODAY ONWARDS I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO "THE NINTH..."

HUH?

IT'S ALRIGHT, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND ONCE YOU GET THERE...

FIRST, PLEASE RIDE THE ELEVATOR BACK TO THE FIRST FLOOR, AND STATE YOUR NAME AND MATTER AT THE RECEPTION DESK...

YAMAMOTO
KENJI

ANY NAME
15—

辞令

周建人

商务印书馆

SORRY, I JUST GOT HERE A BIT EARLY...



NONETHELESS

AS THEY SAY, THERE IS NOTHING WASTED IN LIFE. PRESENTLY I WOULD LIKE TO WORK HUMBLLY YET EARNESTLY, SO MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE COULD SOMEDAY CONTRIBUTE TO 'THE NINTH' WHICH I ASPIRED TO FOR SO LONG.

WHILE IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN ME A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATIONS AND WORK SO OUTSIDE MY FIELD, WHICH MADE MY HAIR REcede GREATLY...

THEREFORE, FROM NOW ON...

DEEPLY

I'LL BE GREATLY THANKFUL FOR ALL YOUR GUIDANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FUTURE!

...SEEM TO HAVE QUITE A DIFFERENCE...

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IN THE 'AGE' FIELD IT WAS WRITTEN...

CER-
TAINLY.

36
YEARS OLD...



The Ninth Investigating in
Kangawa Prefecture,
Elementary School
in Tama City,
badly fall and traffic
following the



GIVE IT UP
WITH THE
CREEPY
INTRODUCTIONS,
I'D LIKE THE
AUTOPSY
RESULTS
YUKIKO-GAN.

IT'S NICE
TO MEET
YOU TOO,
SHOULD IT
COME TO
THAT,
PLEASE
TAKE CARE
OF ME...

DEEPLY

IDENTIFIED
CARD

NICE TO
MEET YOU,
I'M A
MEDICAL
EXAMINER
HERE,
MIYOSHI
YUKIKO.

JUST WHEN I
THOUGHT THAT
SOMEHOW A
BODY ROSE
UP FROM
THE AUTOPSY
TABLE,
IT'S JUST A
NEWCOMER TO
"THE NINTH!"



AS YOU
CAN SEE,

THE BRUISES
ON THE BODY
FACING UP
WERE CAUSED
BY THE FALLING
EQUIPMENT AND
SHELVES IN THE
STORAGE ROOM.
THEY WERE ALL
LIVING BODY
REACTIONS.

THERE ARE
MULTIPLE
BRUISES AND
BROKEN BONES
ON THE BODY.
1/4 OF THE BRAIN
IS DESTROYED,
SO MORE
INVESTIGATION
IS IMPOSSIBLE.





HE WAS
STABBED
WITH A SHARP
SINGLE EDGE
BLADE, ABOUT
4 INCHES IN
LENGTH.
FIRST,



THE SINGLE
STAB WOUND ON
THE BACK SIDE
OF THIS BODY.
IT WAS THE
FIRST INJURY.



FROM THE
AMOUNT
OF THE
BLOOD LOSS,
HE REMAINED
IN THIS STATE
FOR ABOUT 10
MINUTES.

HE COLLAPSED
TO FACING UP.
BECAUSE HIS
SPINAL CORD
WAS DAMAGED,
HE WAS NO
LONGER ABLE
TO STAND UP.

THEN,

AS HIS
HANDS,
ELBOWS
AND KNEES
SUSTAINED
STRONG
IMPACT,

HE FELL
FOR-
WARD.



WHEN THAT
MAGNITUDE 5
EARTHQUAKE
HAPPENED—

UNTIL
1:07PM.





ON THE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL GROUNDS,
DURING THE
LESSON TIME...

PROBABLY IF IT WAS A
LARGER-SCALE DISASTER WITH
A LOT OF VICTIMS, THIS ONE
TOO WOULD BE TREATED AS
ONE OF THEM, WITHOUT
PERFORMING AUTOPSY ON
EACH AND EVERY BODY.



IF IT
WASN'T
FOR YOU...

OKAYE
?

.....

THEN,
THE
REMAINING
TWO
BODIES.

AND
RESTRICT
THE AREA!
IT'S A
MURDER
SCENE!

YES!

SO?
IT!

SEARCH THE
GYM STORAGE
ROOM AGAIN,
IMMEDIATELY!
THE WEAPON IS
A 4 INCH LONG
BLADE!



YES. THE BRUISES
AND MULTIPLE BONE
FRACTURES YOU
CONCERNED ABOUT...
THERE WERE NO
SIGNS OF BULLYING
OR ABUSE.

THE 5TH GRADE
MINORS DIED OF
THE INTERNAL ORGAN
DAMAGE AND BROKEN
BONES DUE TO A FALL
AND A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
RESPECTIVELY, RIGHT?



WE CAN'T
TELL WHY
HE FELL OFF THE
ROOF
WITHOUT
SEEING THE MIRE
AFTER
ALL...



But I'm happy
to see Maki-san
and Yukiko-san...
My two favorite
people, getting
along well.



I don't
know if
something
happened
between
them,

THIS WAY,
WHEN WE
INVESTIGATE
THE MRI,



Though
I should
probably
be
jealous.

DESIDES,

WE SKIP AS MUCH OF
THE VICTIM'S PRIVATE
LIFE AS WE CAN.
THE PARTS THAT DON'T
SEEM CONNECTED TO
THE CASE, LIKE SLEEP
TIME AND WASHING UP...
IT'D TAKE WAY TOO
MUCH TIME TO WATCH
IT ALL.

...THE MRI
INVESTIGATION THAT
ONLY JUST GOT INTO
THE CORE OF THE
BOARD MEMBERS'
DISCUSSIONS WOULD
RUN AROUND AGAIN.

IF THE INVESTIGATORS WERE TO
PEEK ON PERPETRATORS' OR
VICTIMS' MARRIED LIVES OR
WHATEVER THEY DO IN THE
BATHROOM IN THE NAME OF A
'CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION'...

TO THINK
THAT THE
MRI
IMAGES
WOULD BE
SO VIVID...
THIS...

WHA
...

I'M
SURPRISED.

THIS MIGHT
NEED TO BE
CONTROLLED
IN SOME WAY
AFTER ALL...



SORRY,
HE'S
OLDER
SO I
JUST...

THAT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE GOOD AT
TEACHING...
ANYWAY, WHY ARE
YOU SO POLITE
WITH HIM?
YAMAMOTO IS AN
UNDERLING!
YOUR
UNDERLING!

BUT HE WAS PRETTY
QUICK TO CATCH ON
OPERATING THE
EQUIPMENT...
HE'S NOT JUST AN
ORDINARY PERSON...

WHAT'S UP
WITH THAT
GUYS?

POLITE
LANGUAGE
TO AN
UNDERLING?

ONE GOES OUT
OF HIS WAY TO
TEACH HIM
EVERYTHING,
AND HE DARES
TO INSULT
THE NINTH, ALL
SMUG-FACED!



**IS IT
CLEAR?
NOW
LOOK!**

**WHETHER
HE'S 60 OR 80,
A
BORDINATE
IS A
SUBORDINATE!**

**THE CHAIN
OF COMMAND
WILL BREAK
INTO CHAOS!**

**YOU
CAN'T
DO
THAT,
AOKI!**



**WE'LL BE
WATCHING THE
IMAGES FROM
ARITA SHIN THAT
FELL DOWN FROM
THE ROOF!**

71
Y867

**HEY,
YAMA-
MOTO!**



**BY THE WAY, SECTION
CHIEF IS A VERY BUSY
PERSON, SO DON'T
WASTE HIS TIME! TAKE
YOUR QUESTIONS TO
ONE OF US!**

**PREPARE TO SCREEN THEM ON
THE BIG MONITOR LIKE WE'VE
TAUGHT YOU! ONLY AFTER
YOU FINISH EVERYTHING,
YOU CAN CALL
SECTION
CHIEF NAOKI!**

YAMA-
MOTO-
SAN,







THAT
THE NINTH'S
FUTURE
LIES WITH
YOU.



IT MUST BE
HARD TO START
RIGHT FROM THE
BOTTOM AT YOUR
AGE, BUT PLEASE
DO YOUR BEST.
IT'D BE RIGHT
TO SAY...



YES.
THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

I HAVE
HIGH HOPES
OF YOU.

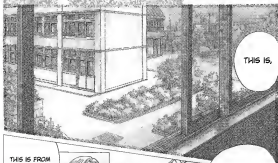


OKAYE.



LET ME
KNOW
WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE.





THIS IS FROM
17 MINUTES
BEFORE THE
EARTHQUAKE.



A PICTURE FROM
ARITA SHIN, WHO
DIED FIRST AFTER
FALLING FROM
THE ROOF.



THERE'S EXACTLY
10 MINUTES LEFT
OF THE LUNCH
BREAK.





THE LIBRARY
SEEMS PRETTY
EMPTY FOR
THIS TIME
OF DAY...
NO ONE'S
THERE...

ISN'T IT
NORMAL
NOWADAYS?
EVERYONE
JUST USES
COMPUTER TO
SEARCH FOR
ANYTHING—

AH!

THERE!

WHAT'S
UP
ACK?
SOME-
THING
WENT
...?

HEY!



?

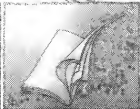
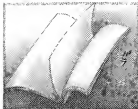
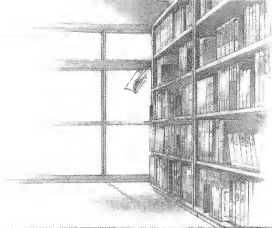
A...

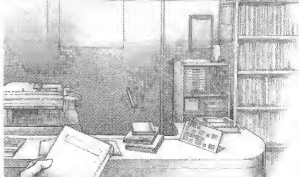
EH?!

THE
BOOK

BOOK

THAT





IT'S FILLING THE
FORMS WITH A
PENCIL...

A MOVING
HUMAN
SHADOW IS
REFLECTED...

IT'S

IT'S LIKE
A SPIRIT
WORLD!

YOU CAN
ONLY DISCERN
PEOPLE AS
MOVING
GHOSTS!

ARITA SHIN

WAS HIS
BRAIN
DAMAGED?

WHY
IS IT...



What...



IF THERE'S
SOME KIND OF
MALFUNCTION IN
TEMPORAL OR
OCCIPITAL LOBE,



Occipital Lobe

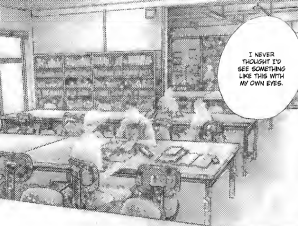
Temporal Lobe



THIS
PICTURE
IS...

THIS
IS...

I'VE HEARD THAT
IT CAN HAPPEN THAT
DESPITE A CORRECT
VISION THE PERSON
MIGHT BE UNABLE
TO PROPERLY
RECOGNIZE AND
DIFFERENTIATE
HUMAN SHAPES,
OR HAVE DIFFICULTY
ANALYZING THE
VISUAL DATA,
BUT...



I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SEE SOMETHING
LIKE THIS WITH
MY OWN EYES.

JUST WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THIS CHILD?



EVEN FROM THE
POINT OF EXAMINING
THE CRANIAL NERVES
IT'S AN INCREDIBLY
INTERESTING IMAGE,
BUT NOT ONLY IS IT A
BRAIN OF A TEN YEAR
OLD, HE ALSO HAD
A FUNCTIONAL
DISORDER.

IN THE FUTURE
IT MIGHT BECOME
A PROBLEM WITH
THE BOARD
MEMBERS, WHAT
DO YOU THINK?

CHEF!

9

YAMA-
MOTO...?



**WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?!**

I'M JUST
ASKING THE
CHIEF FOR HIS
OPINION AND
HE HAS THE
RIGHT TO SAY
IN THIS, SO
WHY ARE
YOU...

WAIT A
MOMENT,
PLEASE!

**WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT,
YAMAMOTO,
IT'S BEEN A
FEW MINUTES
SINCE WE'VE
STARTED
WATCH!**



IT'S TRUE THAT THE
CURRENT CASE MIGHT
BE SPECIAL, BUT THERE
WERE NO REPORTS OF
ABNORMALITIES IN THE
BRAIN FROM THE
MAGNETIC RESONANCE
OR AUTOPSY RECORDS.
IT WAS NORMAL!

IN FACT,
WE'VE SEEN
ALL KINDS
OF ILLUSIONS
IN OUR
PREVIOUS
INVESTIGATIONS.

ILLUSIONS
AND VISUAL
HALLUCINATIONS
CAN OCCUR
IN EVERYDAY
LIFE EVEN IN
COMPLETELY
HEALTHY
BRAIN.



**MRI - Magnetic
Resonance Imaging**



I THINK THAT
HALTING THE
INVESTIGATION AT
THIS STAGE
BECAUSE OF THE
ASSUMPTION THAT
THE VICTIM HAD
A FUNCTIONAL
DISORDER WOULD
BE A BIT TOO
HASTY...

THE IMAGES FROM
THE MRI REVEAL THE
DECEASED PERSON'S
PERSONALITY,
MENTAL STATE,
AND LIFE ENVIRONMENT,
AND THEY ARE A CRUCIAL
INFORMATION SOURCE
FOR DETERMINING
WHETHER A CASE WAS
OF CRIMINAL NATURE
OR NOT.



AN
ASSAULT
PROSECUTOR.



YAMA-
MOTO USED
TO BE,



UNTIL
NOW,



IT MIGHT
HAVE PASSED
SOMEHOW,
BUT WE
CANNOT KEEP
IT ON IF WE
WERE UNDER
A PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR'S
GUIDANCE...

PROSE-
CUTOR?



ASSISTANT
PROSECUTOR...
PROSECUTOR-
SAN?

HE'S THE TALENTED,
OR RATHER ECCENTRIC
PERSON, THAT AFTER
EXCELLENTLY PASSING THE
BAR EXAM, AND WORKING
AS THE ASSISTANT
PROSECUTOR FOR
FIVE YEARS...

THE NINTH'S
INFRINGEMENT
ON
HUMAN
PRIVACY IS A
RECURRING
PROBLEM.

'I
HAVE
HIGH
HOPES
OF
YOU.'

...RE-TOOK THE
FIRST DEGREE
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL EXAM,
AIMING FOR
'THE NINTH'.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT 'THE NINTH' IS TO ESTABLISH COOPERATION WITH THE PROSECUTION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE US WITH A LEGAL GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION IN CASE OF BREACHES OF OBJECTIVITY AND INSTANCES OF GOING TOO FAR IN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION.

IT WON'T BE ANY SURPRISE IF ONE DAY THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF A VICTIM OR A PERPETRATOR FILES A LAWSUIT AGAINST US. FOR THAT EVENTUALITY,

IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INVESTIGATION?

HE MIGHT BE A BEAUTY TALK.

THEN THIS CREEPY GUY WILL BE MEDDLING INTO EVERYTHING?

WELL IT'S A FUTURE TALK FOR THE TIME BEING.

SUPERVISION ?

SUPERVISION ?

FOR THAT TIME AS WELL,

BUT PREPARE YOURSELF THAT WHEN 'THE NINTH' SPREADS OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IT'LL SURELY FALL INTO THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S SUPERVISION.

OKAYE.

GET ALONG
WELL WITH
KENJI-SAN
FROM
NOW ON.



YES!

ANNOUNCING!!!

HE'S
SO

A
A
A

YAMA-
MOTO!

WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW,

WE'RE
CONTINUING
THE INVESTI-
GATION.



IS NOT WHY IS
THE BOY UNABLE
TO TELL PEOPLE
APART.



IT'S HOW DID IT
HAPPEN THAT THE
BOY FELL FROM
THE ROOF TEN
MINUTES AFTER
THE EARTHQUAKE.

AND IF
THERE'S A
LINK BETWEEN
THESE THREE
PERSONS'
DEATHS APART
FROM THE
DISASTER,
THAT'S ALL!



WE'RE
GETTING
BACK TO
THE INVESTI-
GATION AFTER
A TEN MINUTE
BREAK—
ORASE,
COME WITH
ME.

YES!



WHETHER HIS
BRAIN WAS
FUNCTIONALLY
IMPAIRED OR
NOT,



THE NINTH
WILL HANDLE
IT ALL THE
SAME.

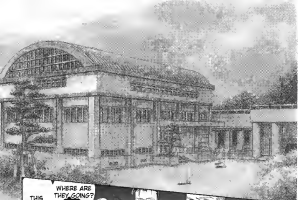


THE VIEWER,
ARITA, IS
LOOKING
DOWN ON
A CORRIDOR
PASSING BELOW
THE ONE
HE'S ON.

IT'S FIFTEEN
MINUTES
BEFORE THE
EARTHQUAKE,
12:52 PM.

HE SEES
THIS
SHADOW

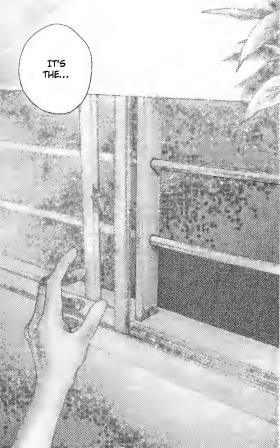
...THIS
'SHADOW PERSON',
AND HE STARTS
PURSUING THEM.



12:55PM...



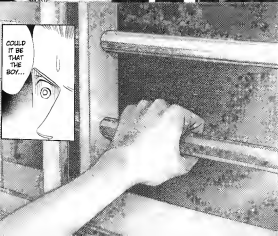
IT'S
THE...



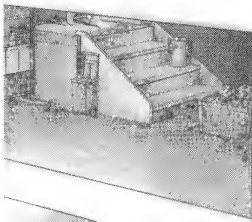


GYM
STORAGE
ROOM—





SAW IT?





THAT
SCENE?



AND
THERE
COMES
IN THE
SHADOW
THE BOY
WAS
FOLLOW-
ING?

IT
SEEMS
THERE
WAS
ONE
SHADOW
INSIDE
...



IT'S NO
CLUE IF
WE ONLY
SEE
SHADOWS
...

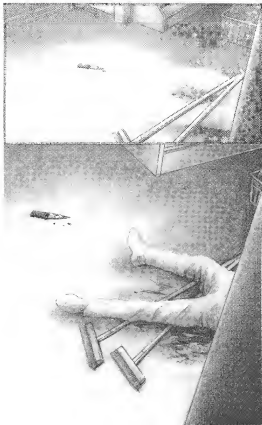
BUT WE
CAN'T
EVEN TELL
IF IT'S A
MAN OR A
WOMAN...



AH!



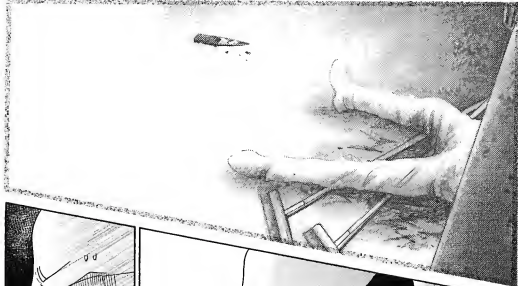






R E I K O S H I M I Z U
T H E T O P S E C R E T





HUSH
...

YEAH
...

JUST PUT
UP WITH
IT...



WELL,
CAN'T
HELP IT,
WITH
HIM...

IT'S
YAMA-
MOTO...



LET GO!

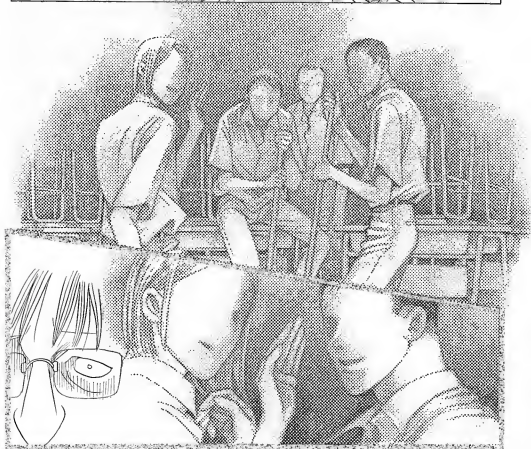
YAMAMOTO-
KUN'S AS
COOL AS
ALWAYS!

SHUSH
...

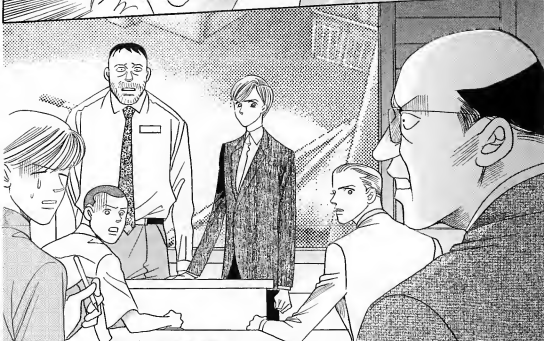
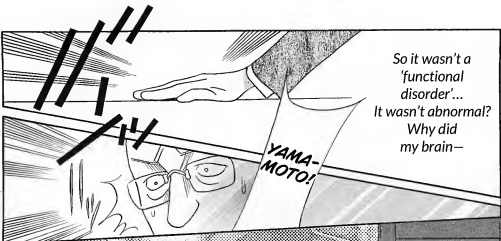
HE'S
HERE.

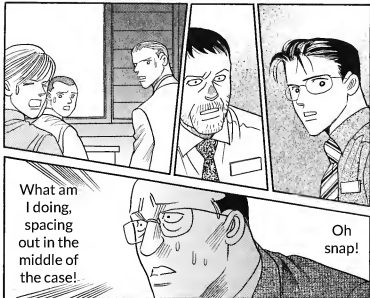
HEH
HEH...

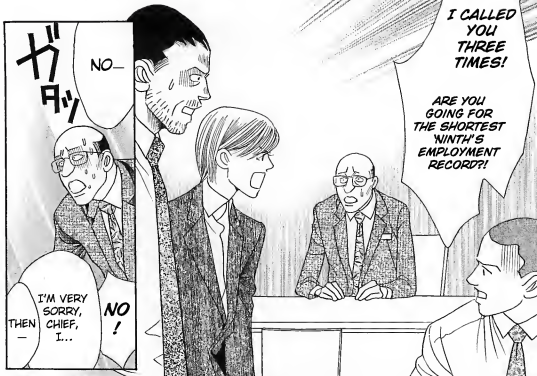
HAAAAHA!











...WHAT
YOU
SHOULD BE
DOING NOW,
RIGHT?

THEN YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
EXACTLY...

...AH...

MAKI-
SAN...

JUST NOW
I... DIDN'T
LIS...

CHIEF
I...

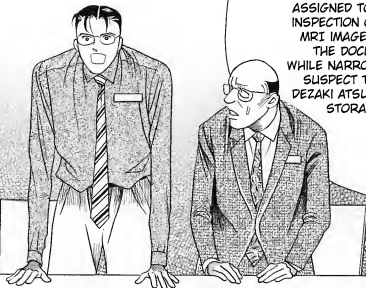
I'M
SORRY
...

I'M
...

YES!

カ
タ
リ

UNDERSTOOD!
JUST AS YOU SAID, MAKI-SAN,
ME AND YAMAMOTO-SAN ARE
ASSIGNED TO CONTINUE THE
INSPECTION OF ARITA SHIN'S
MRI IMAGES ALONG WITH
THE DOCUMENTATION,
WHILE NARROWING DOWN THE
SUSPECT THAT STABBED
DEZAKI ATSUSHI IN THE GYM
STORAGE ROOM!



OF BABA EIICHI
THAT DIED IN THE
TRAFFIC INCIDENT,
AND WRITE UP A
REPORT SO WE
COULD VERIFY
ANY CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE
TWO CASES.

SO...

THEN, AFTER
A THREE DAY
PERIOD
WE'LL
REVIEW
THE THIRD
CASE INSPECTED
BY
OKABE-
SAN AND
IMAI-
SAN.

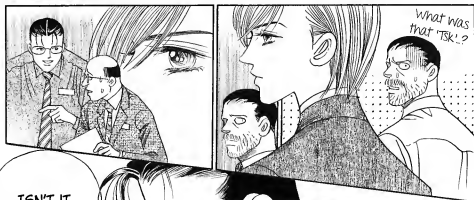
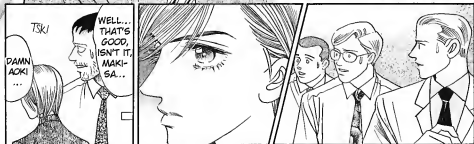


WE'RE FINE,
RIGHT,
YAMAMOTO-
SAN?

WITH
THIS,

A!





HUH?

??

MAKI-SAN
STOPPED
BEING POLITE
WITH YOU!

HUH?

HE YELLED
AT YOU
WITH ALL HIS
MIGHT IN
FRONT OF
EVERYONE...

HUH??

?

WE OFTEN
CALL MAKI-SAN'S
POLITE LANGUAGE A
'POLIGHT' LANGUAGE,
AS IN 'USED LIGHTLY'...
IT OFTEN MEANS HE
HATES THAT PERSON OR
WANTS TO LEAVE SOME
DISTANCE BETWEEN
THEM.

HUH
?

A/N: LIGHTLY IN A WAY
TO BELITTLE A PERSON

IT'S ALRIGHT,
MAKI-SAN NEVER
DEMANDS ANYTHING
IMPOSSIBLE!

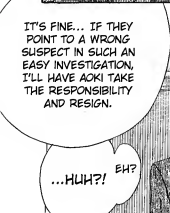
BUT!

WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT
ANY OF THAT? I'VE BEEN
MORE TERRIFIED THAN WHEN
I FIRST DROVE A CAR OUTSIDE
ON A TEMPORARY LICENSE
AND CAUSED AN ACCIDENT!
AND HOW EXACTLY ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO NARROW DOWN
A WITNESS FROM IMAGES
WHERE YOU CAN'T TELL PEOPLE
APART? I DON'T WANT THE
CHIEF TO YELL AT ME AGAIN...!

HE MUST LIKE
YOU AFTER ALL,
YAMAMOTO-SAN.

TO GET
YELLED AT
SO MUCH ON
YOUR FIRST
DAY...

HE ONLY YELLS
AT HIS OWN
SUBORDINATES.





THE
BLOOD.

IT STUCK
TO THE
COLLAR AND
SLEEVES.

**SINCE WHEN?!
HOW?
IN THE IMAGES
FROM ARITA,
THERE WAS
NOTHING BUT
SHADOWS AND
BLOOD!
THERE WERE
NO FACES
VISIBLE
ANYWHERE...**



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THE ONE WHO
STABBED
DEZAKI
ATSUSHI...

ASSUMING FROM THE
VICTIM'S REACTIONS
IT WAS SOMEONE HE
KNEW.

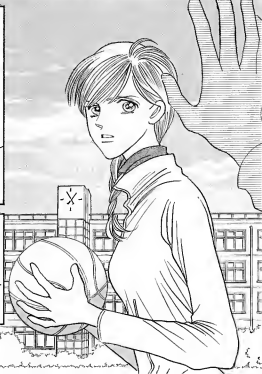
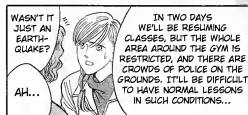
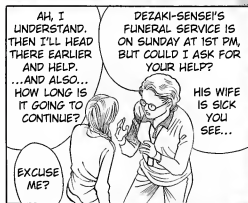
HUH?


IT WAS
MOST LIKELY
UNPLANNED
SINCE THE
CRIMINAL
CAME BARE-
HANDED.

...THESE ARE FROM THE
SCHOOL'S SECURITY
CAMERA? BUT THESE
WERE ONLY INSTALLED
NEAR THE MAIN GATE AND
IN CLASSES TO CHECK
ON THE LESSONS, SO
THEY AREN'T VERY
USEFUL...







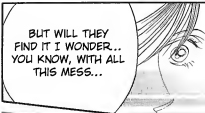


I THINK THE
SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL
WILL BE
GIVING A
SPEECH ABOUT
IT AFTER HE
CONFIRMS IT,
SO FOR NOW
PLEASE
KEEP THIS
SECRET.



APPARENTLY
IT'S TRUE THAT
DEZAKI-SENSEI
WAS STABBED BY
SOMEONE BEFORE
THE EARTHQUAKE.

IT CAME
UP IN THE
AUTOPSY
...



BUT WILL THEY
FIND IT I WONDER...
YOU KNOW, WITH ALL
THIS MESS...

THAT'S WHY THERE IS A
THOROUGH SEARCH FOR THE
WEAPON GOING ON TODAY
AND TOMORROW.




THAT'S RIGHT.
SO I THINK
THE INVESTI-
GATORS WILL
BE ASKING
A LOT OF
QUESTIONS,
PLEASE BEAR
WITH IT FOR
THE TIME
BEING.

...YES... AFTER THE DISASTER THE
RUBBLE WAS MOVED DURING THE
RESCUE OPERATIONS, AND A LOT
OF UNRELATED PEOPLE COULD
WALK INTO THAT SCENE...



**YES,
UNDER-
STOOD!**



AH, BUT DON'T
TALK WITH THE
CHILDREN ONE ON
ONE! IF THEY AS
YOU SOMETHING,
WE'RE TOLD TO
HAVE THEIR
GUARDIAN OR
ANOTHER TEACHER
ACCOMPANY YOU.

**BE CAREFUL IF
ANY APPROACHED
YOU SUDDENLY!**

YES!

THERE'S
THE SOUND
OF METAL
DETECTED,
SO FOCUS
ON THIS
PLACE.

AL-
RIGHT,
SO LET'S
SPLIT
INTO TWO
GROUPS.

WE'RE
GOING
THROUGH
THE
WHOLE
SCHOOL!

KEEP OUT

KEEP OUT

Pipi Pipi

UNDER-
STOOD...

YES!

KEEP OUT

KEEP OUT

Knife -
the
evidence
weapon

AOKI-
SAN!

A man with glasses and a suit is pointing his right index finger towards the left. He has a serious expression.

**AOKI-SAN,
PLEASE
TAKE A
LOOK!**

With the
culprit's
fingerprints,
the only
unarguable...

A hand is pointing to a specific spot on a dark, textured surface. The spot is highlighted with a small circle.

HERE!

A view of a room with a wooden floor. A pair of footprints is visible, leading from the bottom left towards the top right. The room appears to be a storage room with some furniture in the background.

AT 12:56, THE BOY
WHO SAW THE
CRIME, ARITA,
COMES INTO THE
STORAGE ROOM
AFTER THE CULPRIT
HAS LEFT...

Two men in suits are looking at a table. The man on the left is pointing at the table with his right hand. The man on the right is looking at the table with a serious expression.


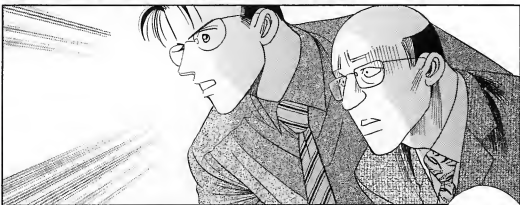
ㄥ
ㄥ

HERE
IT IS...
CAN YOU
SEE?

IT'S ONLY
A MOMENT,
BUT...



HE PICKS UP
THE KNIFE THAT
THE CULPRIT
DROPPED...



THEN WITHOUT A
SECOND GLANCE TO
DEZAKI ATSUSHI LYING
ON THE FLOOR,
HE LEAVES AND LOCKS
THE DOOR FROM THE
OUTSIDE AGAIN.



AND HE
WIPES IT WITH
THE BACK OF
HIS SHIRT...



Both
the
finger-
prints
and
blood-
stains—



AND THAT'S
HOW THE GYM
WAS WHEN...

THAT
MEANS
...

IT'S
12:58!

...RIGHT...
IT'LL BE
IMPOSSIBLE
TO COLLECT
THE
FINGER-
PRINTS...

IF WE
TURNED THE
CLOTHES THE
BOY WAS
WEARING AT
THE TIME FOR
LAB TESTS,
WE MIGHT
GET THE
BLOOD
STAINS,
BUT...

AOKI-SAN,
THAT MEANS
THAT THE
CRUCIAL
FINGERPRINTS
ARE—

AND THE ONES
THAT ARE ON
THE STORAGE
ROOM'S HANDLE
ALL BELONGED
TO PEOPLE
RELATED TO
THE SCHOOL,
SO THEY WON'T
BE OF ANY
USE EITHER...



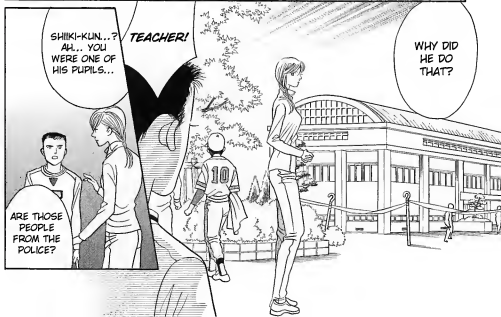
THIS WAS
THE CULPRIT'S
IDENTITY...



...CANNOT
BE
SPECIFIED!



WHY DID
ARITA
BOY...



SHINKI-KUN...?
AH... YOU
WERE ONE OF
HIS PUPILS...

TEACHER!

WHY DID
HE DO
THAT?

ARE THOSE
PEOPLE
FROM THE
POLICE?

EH?

TEACHER...
I MIGHT GET
CAUGHT.

WELL,
LET'S GO.

YES... THEY
ARE CHECKING
ALL KINDS OF
THINGS SINCE
THREE PEOPLE
DIED...

BECAUSE WE
BULLIED ARITA...

I HEARD
ABOUT IT.

THAT
DUMB-
ASS...

THAT'S
WHY I...

SHIKI-
KUN!

HE WAS
STROLLING
AROUND
WITH THAT
BRAND
STUFF
SO I...
THAT'S
WHY...

I HID HIS
BAG!

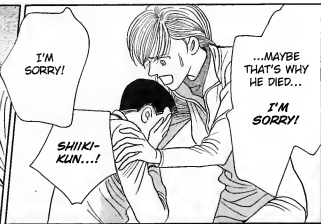
SO NOW
WHATEVER
HE SAW...
THEY POLICE
WILL SEE
EVERYTHING...
MY FACE
TOO...

THAT ARITA'S
BRAIN IS BEING
INVESTIGATED
BY 'THE NINTH'.

MY FACE
AND ALL...
I'M
BUSTED!



IT'S FINE!



I'M SORRY!

SHIIKI-KUN...!

...MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE DIED...

I'M SORRY!



EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT...
THEY WON'T ARREST YOU FOR THIS...



IT'S FINE...



IT'S ALRIGHT,
IF IT'S TOO HARD ON
YOU, I'LL RETURN IT
FOR YOU.

HERE, GET
BACK NOW.

JUST RETURN
THE BAG YOU
HID TO HIS
PARENTS, HM?

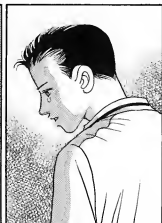
OK?

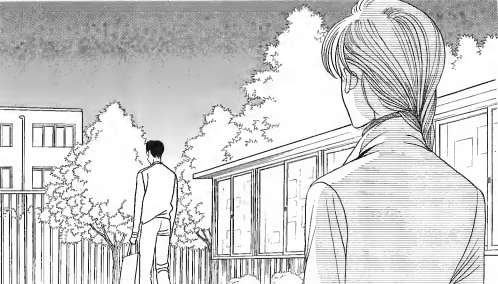


DID YOU KNOW
THAT ARITA
WAS IN LOVE
WITH YOU?



HE...





I knew.



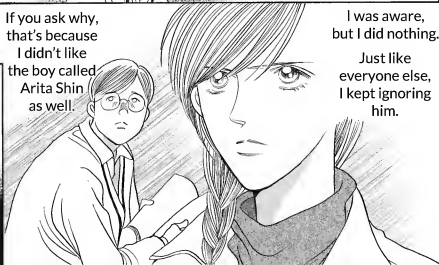
And I knew
that he was
often looking
at me.



I also knew that Arita was
isolated from his class and
that everyone ignored him.

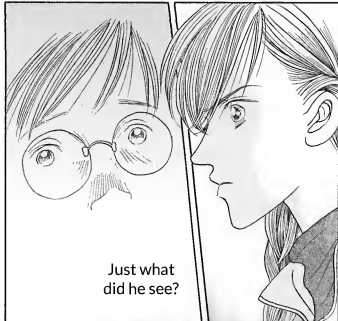
If you ask why,
that's because
I didn't like
the boy called
Arita Shin
as well.

'That's
why...'



I was aware,
but I did nothing.

Just like
everyone else,
I kept ignoring
him.

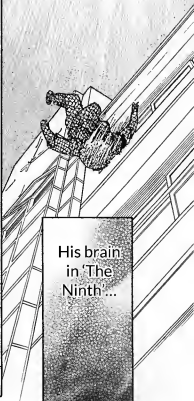


Just what
did he see?

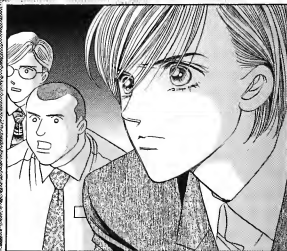
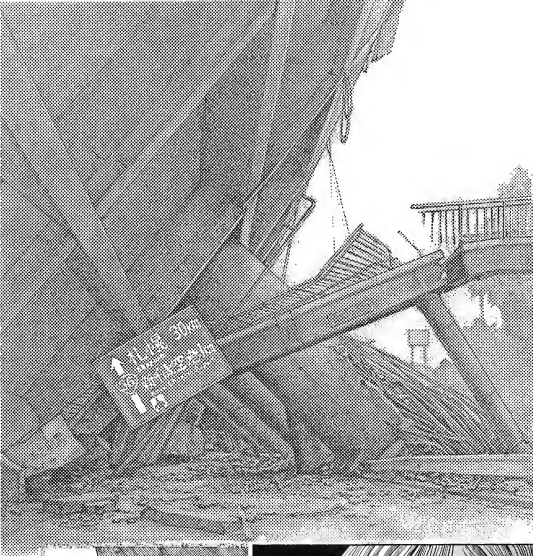


Just
what...

'Maybe that's
why he died!



His brain
in 'The
Ninth'...





THIS
PICTURE IS
NOT FROM
THIS
EARTH-
QUAKE...

THE
TOMIKOMAIOKI
EARTHQUAKE
ON HOKKAIDO
TWO YEARS
AGO?

EH?

MAKI-SAN,
HOW DID YOU...
AH, I SEE,
THERE WAS
A ROAD
SIGN JUST
NOW...

YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

HE WAS
THERE WHEN
TOMIKOMAIOKI
EARTHQUAKE
HAPPENED.

THAT EARTHQUAKE
HAD 7.8 MAGNITUDE.
IT WAS 7 POINTS IN
TOMIKOMAI CITY,
AND 6 POINTS IN
SAPPORO. IT WAS
A HUGE DISASTER
THAT CAUSED GREAT
DAMAGE ON A WIDE
AREA.



THE THIRD CASE—
BABA EIICHI WHO
LEAPED ONTO THE
STREET AND GOT
HIT BY A CAR.

ON MARCH
TWO YEARS AGO
HE WAS ON A
SPRING BREAK
TRIP WITH HIS
FATHER.





HE WITNESSED
SUCH A
HORRIBLE
EARTHQUAKE...
AT 8 YEARS
OLD...



THE FULL
NUMBER OF DEAD
AND MISSING IN
THIS CATASTROPHE
WAS OVER 1500
PEOPLE.



WITH NOTHING BUT
A FEW CHANGES
TO THEIR ITINERARY,
AFTER THREE DAYS
THEY SAFELY
REUNITED WITH
THEIR FAMILY IN
KANAGAWA, BUT...

THANKFULLY BABA
EIICHI AND HIS
FATHER GOT OUT
OF IT UNHARMED.

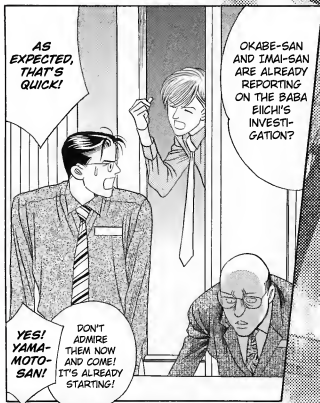


力
千



A GREAT
WOUND
REMAINED
IN
THE BOY'S
HEART.





Articles related to
'Mysterious Deaths of Three
in Takitsu City Elementary'

It's a fact backed with a judicial trial that the 5-B teacher
was stabbed by someone prior to the earthquake.

NOT
GOOD!

'The Ninth' is investigating the remaining two boys brains'.

AOKI-
SAN!

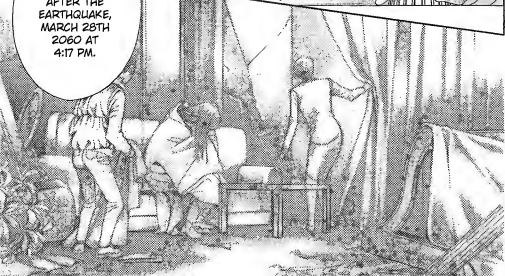
THE
INFORMATION...
LEAKED OUT?

It's possible that one
witnessed the teacher's stabbing.

AOKI-SAN!

If it's true, it means he saw the culprit.

THIS IS JUST
AFTER THE
EARTHQUAKE,
MARCH 28TH
2060 AT
4:17 PM.

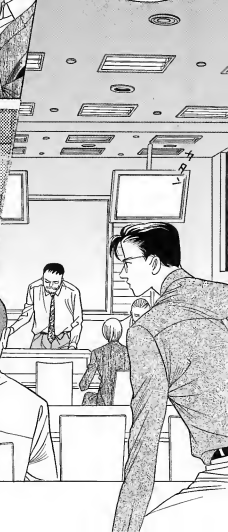
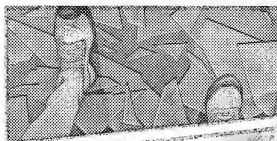


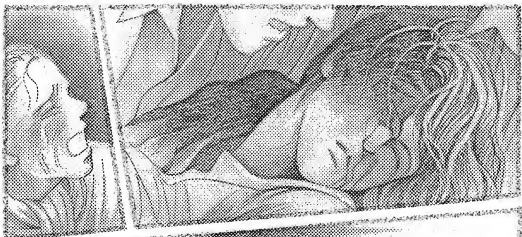
AND GOES
ALONE...

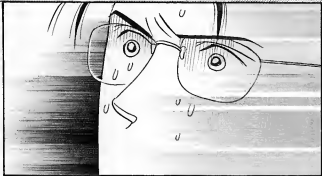
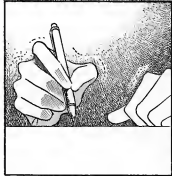
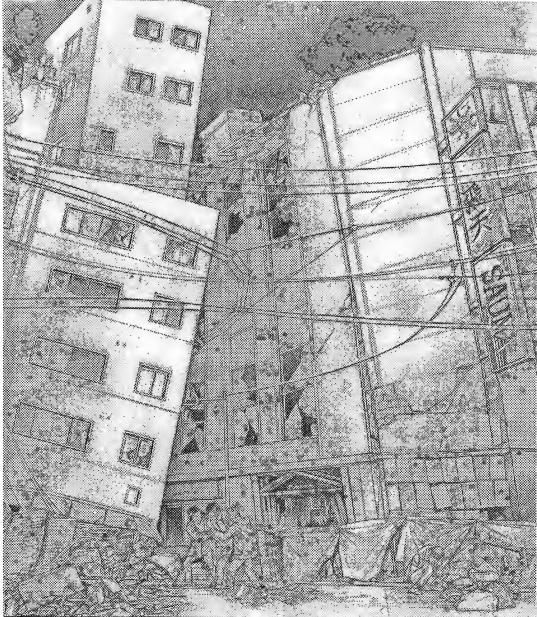
To find -
the hotel for
sure to leave
with me
Each

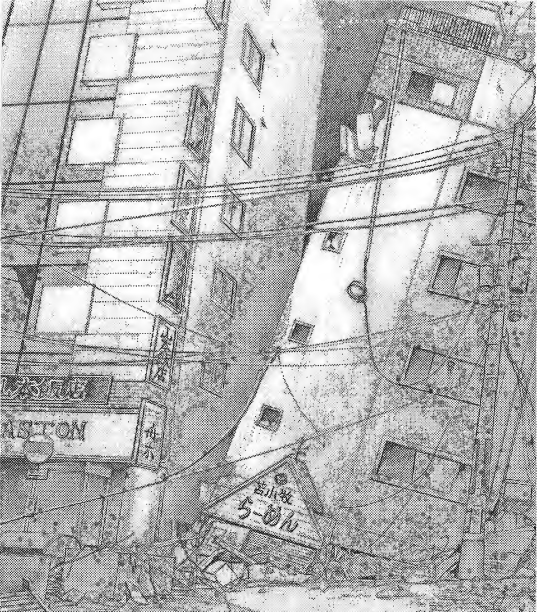
HE
ENTRUSTS
HIS MESSAGE
TO A HOTEL
EMPLOYEE...

BABA EIICHI WHO
SPENT THE DISASTER
ALONE IN HIS HOTEL
ROOM, IS CURRENTLY
AWAITING HIS FATHER'S
RETURN IN THE HOTEL
LOBBY. HOWEVER...
AFTER TWO HOURS,
JUST ABOUT THE TIME
WHEN IT WAS GETTING
DARK OUTSIDE, HE
GOES SEARCHING FOR
HIM ON HIS OWN.





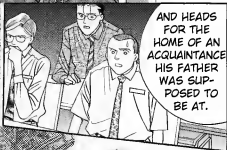






BUT HE
CHANGES
HIS MIND,

SEEING THE
HORRIBLE
SCENE OF
DISASTER EIICHI
FREEZES WITH
FEAR AND FOR
A MOMENT HE
WANTS TO GO
BACK TO THE
HOTEL,

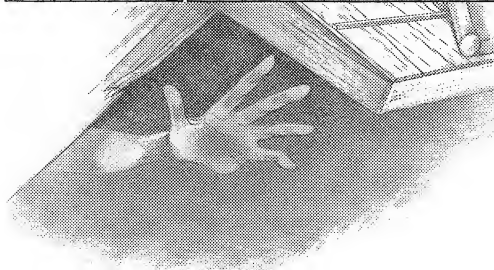


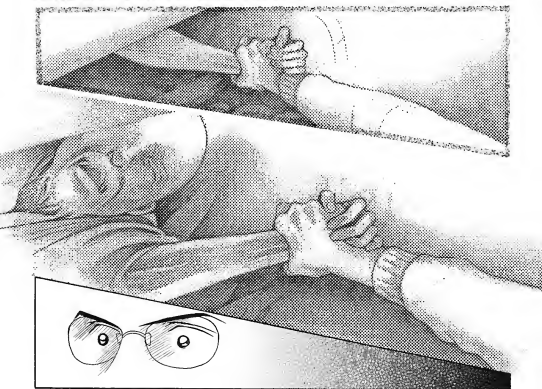
AND HEADS
FOR THE
HOME OF AN
ACQUAINTANCE
HIS FATHER
WAS SUP-
POSED TO
BE AT.





AND JUST
WHEN HE
WAS
PASSING
THAT
HOUSE,





'It's no
use.'



'My
body is
stuck.'

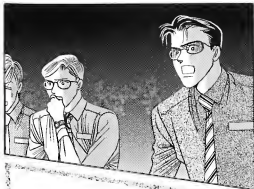
'It's no
use,
boy.'

'Wait!'

'Don't
go!'

'Wait!'

MAYBE HE NOTICED
THAT HE WAS
UNABLE TO PULL
HIM OUT ON
HIS OWN, OR HE
THOUGHT THAT IT
WAS TOO DIFFICULT,
BUT EIICHI LET GO
OF THE HAND TO
CALL FOR
HELP...



'Don't let go
of my hand!'

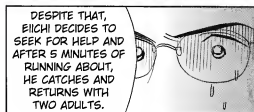


'Please,'

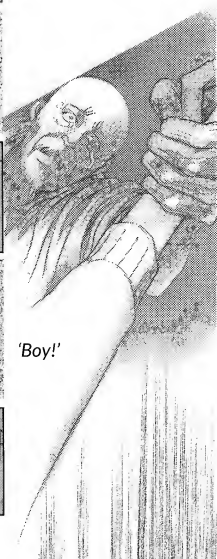
'Please
stay
here.'



'Please!'



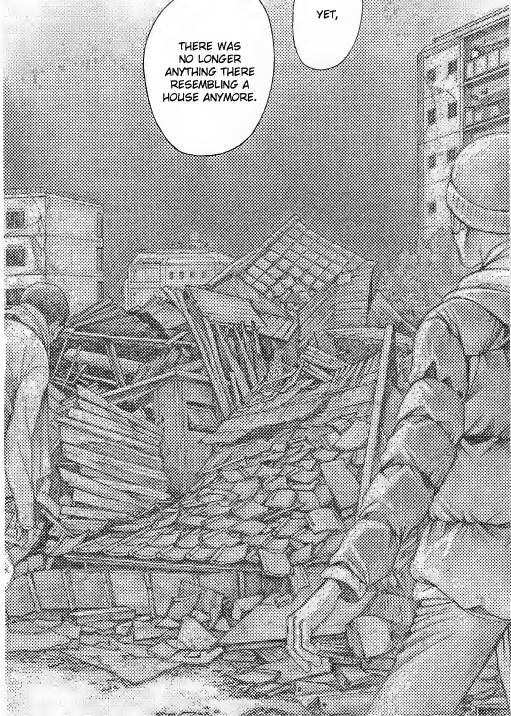
DESPITE THAT,
EICHI DECIDES TO
SEEK FOR HELP AND
AFTER 5 MINUTES OF
RUNNING ABOUT,
HE CATCHES AND
RETURNS WITH
TWO ADULTS.



'Boy!'

THERE WAS
NO LONGER
ANYTHING THERE
RESEMBLING A
HOUSE ANYMORE.

YET,



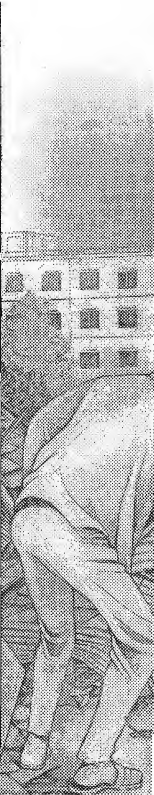


OR HIS
MOTHER
THAT KEPT
WORRYING
AT HOME
FOR THEIR
WELLBEING.

HE NEVER
TOLD HIS
FATHER WITH
WHOM
HE WAS
REUNITED
EARLY
MORNING,

SO NO ONE AT
THE SCHOOL KNEW
THAT BABA EIICHI
HAD WITNESSED
THE TOMIKOMAIOKI
DISASTER.

HE KEPT THE
EARTHQUAKE AND
EVEN THE TRIP TO
HOKKAIDO SECRET
FROM HIS FRIENDS
AND CLASSMATES.



JUST AS BEFORE HE WAS ADORED BY HIS FRIENDS, AND HIS GRADES WERE GOOD AS WELL, SO WITH NOTHING IN PARTICULAR TO WORRY ABOUT, THE INCIDENT BECAME A THING OF THE PAST FOR THE FAMILY.

FOR A WHILE THE BOY'S FAMILY WORRIED ABOUT HIM DEVELOPING PTSD (POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) DUE TO WITNESSING THE TRAGEDY AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO VISIT A PSYCHOLOGIST, BUT HE REFUSED.

EIICHI HIMSELF WASN'T NOTICING THE EMOTIONAL WOUND IT LEFT IN HIM.

PERHAPS,

AT LEAST,

UNTIL THIS TIME'S EARTHQUAKE DISASTER.



And
gushed
out.

Already...

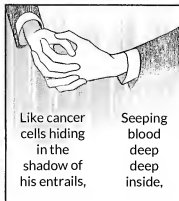
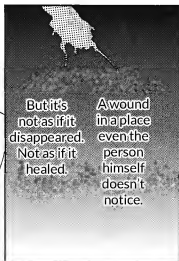


When I
triggered by
something it
appeared.



But it's
not as if it
disappeared.
Not as if it
healed.

A wound
in a place
even the
person
himself
doesn't
notice.

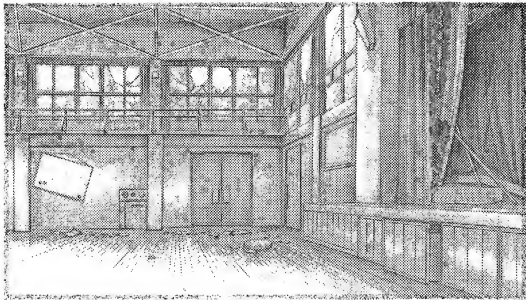


Like cancer
cells hiding
in the
shadow of
his entrails,

Seeping
blood
deep
deep
inside,

Beyond
any
control.





THE DISASTER HAPPENS
WHEN EIICHI AS A CLASS
REP, IS ASKED BY THE
TEACHER TO BRING A
LINE STRIPING CART
FROM THE GYM.



JUST LIKE
BEFORE HE
REACTS TO
A SOUND
AND GOES
TO THE
STORAGE
ROOM.



THEN,





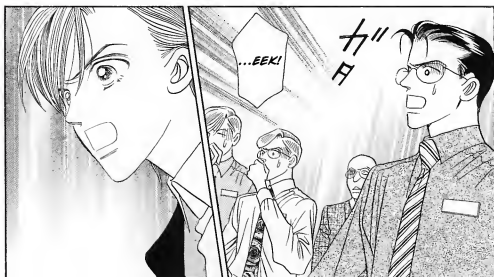
'It's
'Sorry.' no use,
boy.'

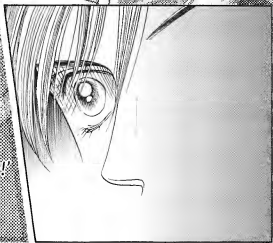


'It must've
collapsed
a moment
ago.'

'Ah,
this
one...'









'I see...
Thank you...
I'm waiting.
I'll be waiting
here so...

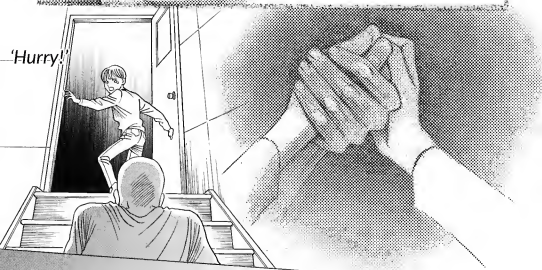
'A...
Aa...'

'I'll
leave it
to you.'

'This
time,'

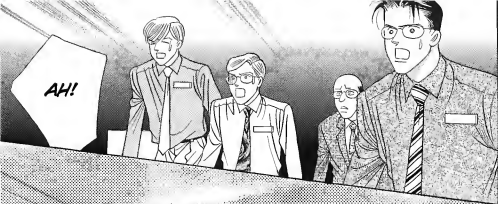
'Hurry...
Please...'

'Hurry!'



Hurry!





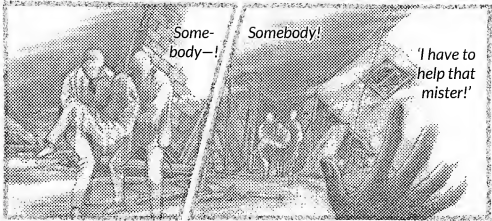
QUICKLY!



**Some-
body—!**

Somebody!

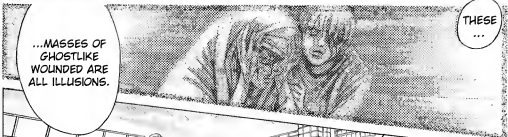
**'I have to
help that
mister!'**



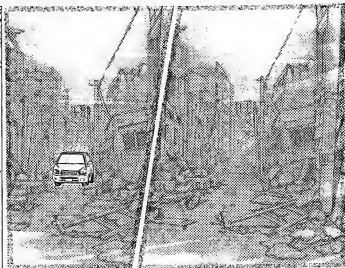


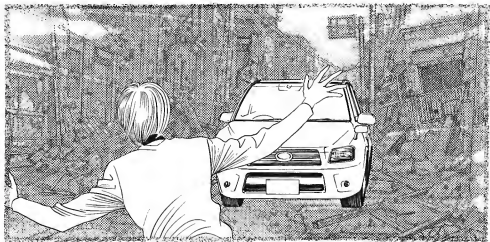
...MASSES OF
GHOSTLIKE
WOUNDED ARE
ALL ILLUSIONS.

THESE
...



IN REALITY,
EIICHI WAS RUNNING
AROUND THE
SCHOOLYARD ALONE.







**STOP
!**

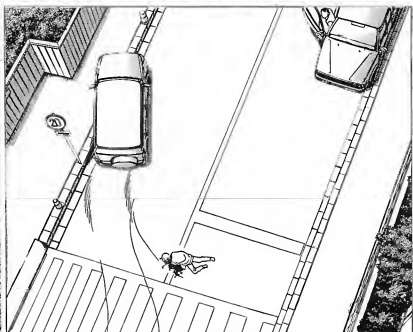


**PLEASE
STO—**





Hey!



'They'll get
you to the
hospital soon!
It's ok, they'll
help you!'

'Hey, you! Are
you alright?
I just called the
ambulance
so...!'

#11
#8
7
'They'll...'





SAVED...

SO YOU
WERE
SAVED,
MISTER...

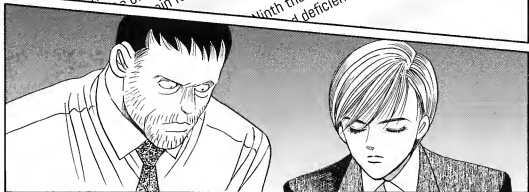


THANK
GOD...

THANK
GOD.



It's true that the kid witnessed the test, apparently he had some kind of vision impairment. The problem to focus on now is not catching the guy but the seems finding the culprit will take a while of the Ninth that would even use mentally disabled for investigation. Ninth that uses brains of people and deficiencies must be forgiven?



ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP YAMAMOTO ASSIGNED TO THE ARITA SHIN CASE?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

A GUY THAT MAKES POSTS LIKE THESE WON'T BE SO NICE TO JUST LEAVE TRACES FOR US.

UNO IS ANALYZING IT NOW, BUT IT WAS PASSED THROUGH SEVERAL SERVERS SO TRACING IT IS A HASSLE.

WHAT'S THE ORIGIN?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAKI-SAN.

WELL,



**ISN'T IT
JUST THE
SAME
AS WHAT
YAMAMOTO
SAID IN THE
BEGINNING?**

**THIS HERE!
'THE PROBLEM
IS 'THE NINTH'
THAT'D USE
EVEN A
DISABLED
CHILD'S BRAIN—'**



**NOT TO
MENTION THAT
THERE WAS
NEVER ANY
INFORMATION
LEAK FROM US
UNTIL HE CAME
HERE!**







ARE YOU
STUPID?



IF IT TURNS
OUT IT WAS HIM,
I'LL TORMENT
HIM INTO A
MENTAL BREAK-
DOWN AND GET
HIM SENT TO A
HOSPITAL.

**BUT MAKI-SAN!
EVERYONE IS
SUSPECTING YAMAMOTO
NOW, SO HE'S BEING CUT
OFF BY EVERYONE FOR
SURE! IF YOU REMOVED
HIM FROM THIS CASE
AND HAD HIM WAIT
SOMEWHERE FAR FROM
INFORMATION UNTIL WE
PROVE HIS INNOCENCE
IT'D BE BETTER FOR
HIM AS W...**

EVERYONE
KNOWS WHAT
YAMAMOTO
SAID,
JUST HOW
DUMB HE'D
HAVE TO
BE TO POST
IT THERE
HIMSELF!

IT'S
FINE.

That's
a bit
too
far...!

HE'S YOUR
SUBORDINATE.

HAVE SOME
MORE TRUST.

OKABE,

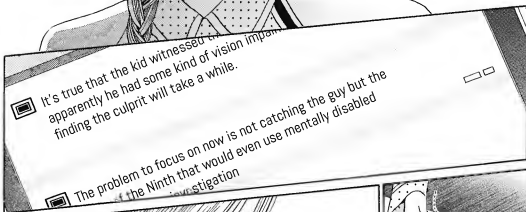
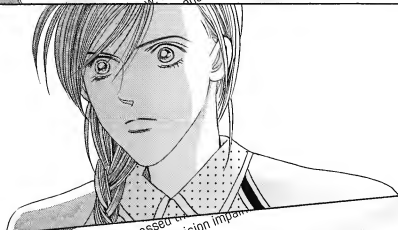
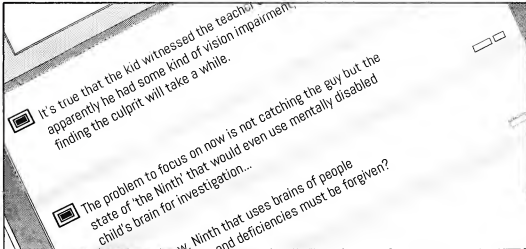


力
千

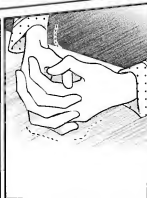
MAY
COME
FROM A
PLACE
I CAN'T
PICK ON.

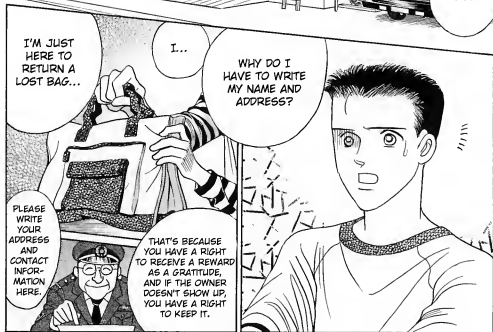
MA
...

THE
ORIGIN
SOURCE
...



Arita-kun...







I WAS
ALWAYS
BULLYING
HIM!

THAT'S
WHY I HID
HIS BAG!

拾得物預り書 (表面)

拾得物件控書		NO. 44326-99		年	月	日
拾得	日時					
場所						
現金	名 称					
物品	内 訳					
受付日時 (取扱者)		月				
		住 所				



IT'S ALRIGHT,
IF IT'S TOO
HARD ON YOU,
I'LL RETURN IT
FOR YOU.

JUST
RETURN
THE BAG YOU
HID TO HIS
PARENTS,
HM? OK?



警察署長への提出
上記の物件を受領しまし
年 月

ADDRESS: Kanagawa

NAME:
Kaneda Yuma

I DON'T WANNA
BE ASKED
ANYTHING ABOUT
ARITA STUFF.
I HAVE NOTHING
TO DO WITH IT!





THERE IS ANYONE THAT HAS TROUBLE EATING OR SLEEPING, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO THE TEACHERS' ROOM!

JUST AS THE PRINCIPAL WAS SAYING IN HIS SPEECH, A FEW PERSONS FROM THE POLICE WILL BE INSPECTING VARIOUS THINGS ABOUT ARITA-KUN, BABA-KUN AND DEZAKI-SENSEI.

Address: Kanagawa
Name: Kaneda You

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!



YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.



AH, BUT...

YOU CAN ALSO CALL ME OR MAIL ME, WHICHEVER IS FINE, EVEN LATE AT NIGHT!



FOR THE TIME BEING I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THIS CLASS.

I'M SURE YOU'RE STILL EXPERIENCING A LOT OF PAIN AND GRIEF ABOUT THE DISASTER... HOWEVER, PLEASE TRY NOT TO OVERTHINK IT TO THE POINT OF ENDANGERING YOUR HEALTH. THERE IS COUNSELLING BEING SCHEDULED AS WELL. IF, AMONG YOU,

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! NOTHING TO DO WITH IT ANYMORE! NOTHING AT ALL!



THEN, LET'S
MOVE ON TO
THE LESSON.



70
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT!

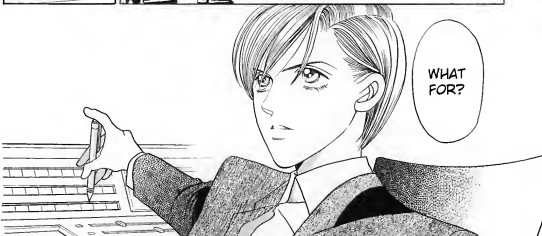
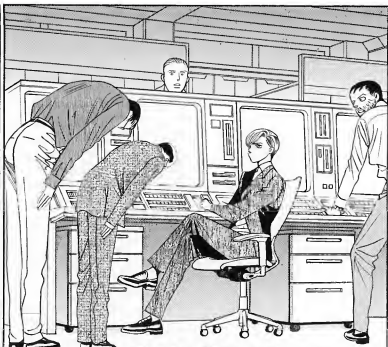
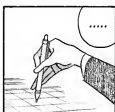
Google
Google

MORNINGS
MIGHT BE
BIT DIFFICULT,
AS ALWAYS...



MAKI-
SAN...

PLEASE
ACCEPT OUR
UTMOST
APOLOGIES!



BUT THERE ISN'T
EVEN A SLIVER OF
PROGRESS IN YOUR
INVESTIGATION?

IS IT
ABOUT THE
FACT THAT
THREE
DAYS HAVE
PASSED,

A...

ALL OF
THOSE.

SINCE THE
FINGERPRINTS
WERE WIPED
OFF THE
KNIFE, THE
EVIDENCE
WEAPON...

IKUSHIMA KYOUKO,
THE LICENCED TEACHER
THAT WAS HAVING AN
ILLICIT AFFAIR WITH THE
DECEASED DEZAKI ATSUSHI
HAD A MOTIVE,
AND SHE'S THE MOST
PROBABLE SUSPECT
ACCORDING TO
CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE, BUT...





SORRY THAT
IT'S AFTER
SOMEONE
ELSE, BUT
TAKE IT
OVER.

IT SEEMS
TOO MUCH
FOR THEM.



MA...

AOKI AND
YAMAMOTO.



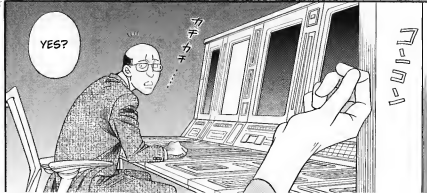
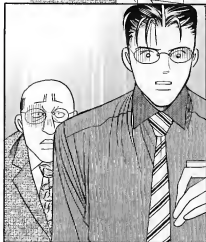
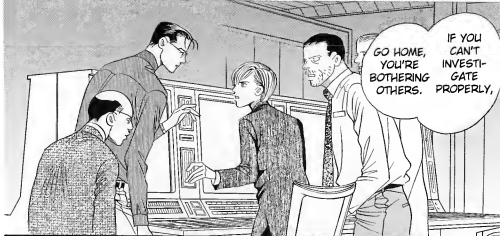
YOU CAN
GO HOME.

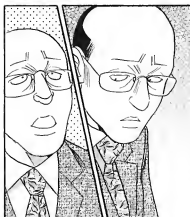
THAT'S
ALL.



PLEASE
WAIT,
WE'RE
STILL...

MAKI-
SAN
...







BUT...
KOIKE-
SAN...



OKABE-SAN AND IMAI-SAN ARE IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE.

THE POLICEMAN DECIDED TO CHECK THE INSIDE OF THE BAG, AND DISCOVERED THINGS BELONGING TO ARITA SHIN. THE CONTENT WAS MOSTLY A FEW TEXTBOOKS AND A MOBILE PHONE, BUT IF IT'S NECESSARY...

THIS JUST CAME IN FROM KOIKE-SAN A WHILE AGO. IT'S A LIST OF FOUND ITEMS FROM TAKITSU CITY, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE. SINCE THE BOY THAT DELIVERED THE BAG BEHAVED ODDLY,

AOKI-SAN,

IF WE MOVE OUT OF LINE, MAKI-SAN WILL GET ANGRY AGAIN.

AOKI-SAN...

.....

THAT'S A LIE.

IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU SAID THAT JUST EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU? THAT 'MAKI-SAN ONLY YELLS AT HIS OWN SUBORDINATES.'

IF YOU REALLY ANGER MAKI-SAN, EVEN IF YOU'RE HIS SUB-ORDINATE,

SORRY, THAT WAS A LIE.

子
力
子
力



He won't
let you
investi-
gate
together,

He won't
let you
get closer,



To be
with
him...

You
won't
be able
to be
with the
others,

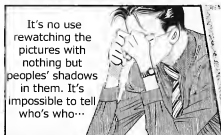
If he
thinks you're
disappointing,



HE WON'T
EVEN YELL
AT YOU.



But what
should
have I
done?



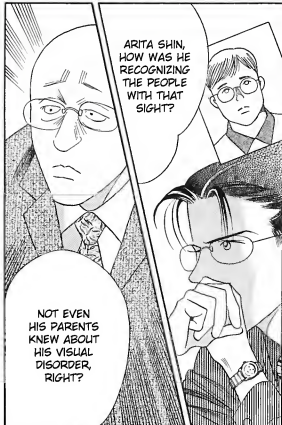
It's no use
rewatching the
pictures with
nothing but
peoples' shadows
in them. It's
impossible to tell
who's who...



But apart from
the height and
clothes difference,
and woman-
like traits, we
couldn't make out
anything more.

There was no
conclusive proof
that would let us
determine that
the culprit
was Ikushima
Kyouko.

I've seen
the images
from Arita
Shin over
and over
again, so
much that I
could see
them in my
dreams,



ARITA SHIN,
HOW WAS HE
RECOGNIZING
THE PEOPLE
WITH THAT
SIGHT?

NOT EVEN
HIS PARENTS
KNEW ABOUT
HIS VISUAL
DISORDER,
RIGHT?



THAT
CHILD,

THAT
KID...

EH?



PROBABLY BY
THE VOICES. THAT'D
BE ENOUGH TO
COMPENSATE FOR
THE MOST OF IT.
AND ALSO...

THEN
HOW...



WHENEVER
POSSIBLE HE'D
TAKE A LOT OF
PICTURES AND
LEAVE THEM AS
RECORDS.

IF YOU WATCH PEOPLE THROUGH SOMETHING TWO DIMENSIONAL LIKE A MONITOR, PICTURE OR TV THAT DOESN'T INDUCE THAT STRESS, STRANGELY ENOUGH YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING CLEARLY.
-THAT'S BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE EYES.

THE ROOT OF THIS KIND OF PROBLEM IS IN FACT THE FEAR AND STRESS FELT WHEN SEEING PEOPLE PRESENT BEFORE YOU, SO... WELL, THAT'S JUST WHAT I HEARD FROM A DOCTOR, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE ARITA BOY,

SIMPLY PUT, INSTEAD OF HIS USELESS EYES, HE DEPENDED ON HIS CELLPHONE.

THAT WAY, BY TAKING LOTS OF PICTURES WITH HIS PHONE AND KEEPING THEM, HE COULD LATER CHECK AND COMPARE THE PICTURES WITH HIS OWN MEMORIES.

BUT THAT'S WHAT I DID.

I DON'T WANT TO BOAST, BUT THERE WASN'T A TIME FROM MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO THE END OF MY UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WHEN I WASN'T BULLIED... SO I HAD BEEN SEEING A PSYCHOLOGIST FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.

YAMA-MOTO-SAN...

I GOT A BIT SHAKEN, THINKING THAT AFTER ALL MAYBE IT WASN'T STRESS AND FEAR BUT A FUNCTIONAL DISORDER IN MY BRAIN AS WELL.

IN THE FUTURE IT MIGHT BECOME A PROBLEM WITH THE BOARD MEMBERS!

I'VE PRETTY MUCH RECOVERED NOW, AND IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH MY WORK OR PRIVATE LIFE ANYMORE,

BUT WHEN I SAW IMAGES FROM ARITA'S BRAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME,



THAT'S NOT IT!

PLEASE LET GO OF ME...



WHAT DID YOU JUST?

PLEASE LET ME GO....

YOU SAID THAT HE USED HIS PHONE INSTEAD OF HIS EYES, RIGHT?

THE PHONE!

**MAKI-
SAN!**

No,
even
if he
didn't...

What if
visually
impaired
Arita had
something
like that
too?

Instead of
his eyes...

**JUST
NOW,
THE
BAG!!**

EH?

**ARITA'S BAG
FROM THE
FOUND ITEMS!
GET HIS
PARENT'S
PERMISSION
AND GET IT!**

**JUST
LET ME
GO,
PLEASE
...**

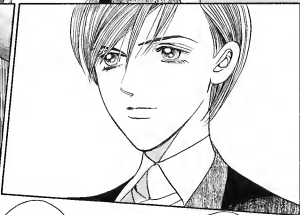


That's right, the
blind boy, Hirai,
had a dog called
Zip that was
substituting for
his eyes...









YES.

I'M
WAITING.

YOU DON'T
NEED TO
HURRY.



MAKI-
SAN.

YES,

WHA?

HE
TOOK A
PICTURE OF
THE
CRIME
SCENE?

THE
ARITA
BOY?

REALLY?

PO...

IT'S FAIRLY
PROBABLE!

YES—
WELL, THAT'S
STILL JUST A
POSSIBILITY,
BUT,

JUST
WHAT
ARE YOU
...?!

IT'D BE BAD IF THE
INFORMATION LEAKED AGAIN—
SO HERE THERE'S NO
CAMERAS OR MICRO-
PHONES...

OKABE,

POSSIBILITY?!

YOU BROUGHT
US ALL HERE
JUST TO HAVE
MAKI-SAN
LISTEN TO SOME
NONSENSE?

...THANK YOU!
SO,

AND?

MAKI-
SAN...

IT'S FINE,
LET HIM
SPEAK.

WHEN HEADING TO
THE GYM ARITA
CARRIED HIS PHONE
WITH HIM,

IF HE TOOK
PICTURES AS
USUAL...

IT'S JUST AS
YAMAMOTO-SAN SAID -
WITH THIS AMOUNT OF
PICTURES IT COULD
BE CALLED A
'PHOTO DIARY'.
IF SOMETHING
HAPPENED, IT'S
CERTAIN THAT ARITA
TOOK A PICTURE
AND KEPT IT.

IF,

IF WE GATHER
AND ANALYZE
THE PREVIOUSLY
SKIPPED PICTURES
OF HIS DAY TO DAY
LIFE, IT TURNS OUT
THAT ARITA TOOK
AND ARCHIVED AN
AVERAGE OF 20-50
PHOTOS A DAY.

THE FACE OF A PERSON THAT
STABBED THE TEACHER, DEZAKI,

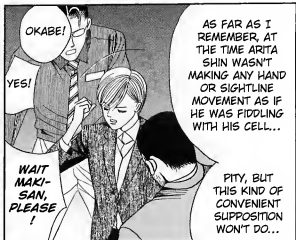
WOULD BE AN INDISPUTABLE,

IT'D SURELY
REMAIN ON HIS
PHONE.

CONCLUSIVE
PROOF!



H...



OKABE!

YES!

WAIT
MAKI-
SAN,
PLEASE
!

AS FAR AS I
REMEMBER, AT
THE TIME ARITA
SHIN WASN'T
MAKING ANY HAND
OR SIGHTLINE
MOVEMENT AS IF
HE WAS FIDDLING
WITH HIS CELL...

PITY, BUT
THIS KIND OF
CONVENIENT
SUPPOSITION
WON'T DO...

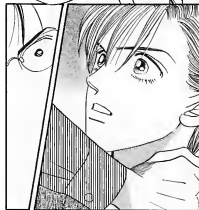


WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
IS...

MAKI-
SAN!

HEY,
AOKI!

NOT WHETHER
IT APPEARS ON
THE PHOTO OR
NOT!



IS PRESENTLY
KEPT STORED
BY THE POLICE
AS A LOST
ITEM!

IT'S THE
FACT THAT
THE CELL
THAT MIGHT
CONTAIN THE
'PROOF',

YOU MEAN...

YES.

MAKI-SAN,
I THINK THAT
IT'LL WORK.

科学警察研究所
法医第九研究室

IT'S
PRETTY
MUCH
ALL FOR
THE
CULPRIT
TO READ!

THE INFOR-
MATION IS
COMPLETELY
LEAKED!

IMAI-SAN,
WHERE IS
MAKI-SAN?

OKABE-
SAN...!

NOT
GOOD!

REALLY
NOT
GOOD!

THERE'S A
NEW POST
ON THE
INTERNET!

THE BOTH OF
THEM
ARE IN
KANAGAWA
PREFECTURE
... WHAT'S
WRONG?

UNO?

■ I've heard that people with impaired ability to form memories would often compensate for their memory by making mental photos of their everyday life, but apparently that boy was doing the same with his visual disability by taking numerous photos with his cell phone. Then how was it with that crime scene that he witnessed?

■ If he had his cell on him as always, then it's highly likely that instead of his eyes, it captured the crime at the very right moment.

■ That phone wasn't in the kid's belongings, so the police are looking if it was lost or intentionally disposed of.

Arita-kun!



■ Finding the phone as soon as possible is the police' shortest way to arresting the real culprit.

Dezaki-sensei!

What's that? Arita's cell?

Turn it over.

I've already told you that you can't take your phone out during lessons!

Arita-kun! What are you doing? I'm confiscating this!

Huuuh...

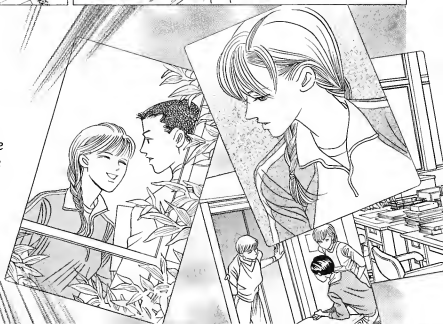
Well... I'll be returning it to him soon, so...

11/4

Yeah, that kid's always snapping around with this thing during breaks... What's he taking all those photos of? I hope it's not some perverted stuff, huh?

'It's highly likely.'

'That instead of his eyes, it captured the crime at the very right moment.'





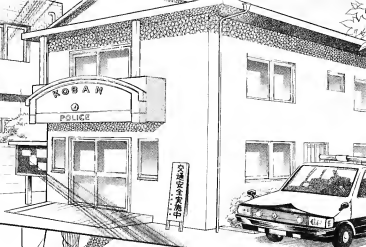
Did you
know that
Arita was in
love with
you?



Shiiki-
kun!



Shiiki-
kun!



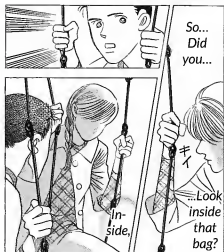
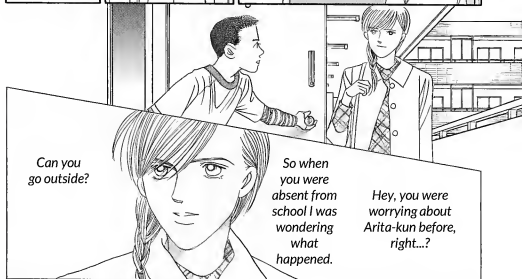
YESTERDAY I
RETURNED A
LOST BAG
HERE,



UM...

BUT I LEFT
MY OWN
CELLPHONE
INSIDE, CAN I
GET IT BACK?







Did you see it?

'It's highly likely,'

'That instead of his eyes, that phone captured the crime at the very right moment.'

カ
カ
カ



カ
カ
カ





The criminal is surely interested in that message board and keeps track of it, so when they'd see that information,

We'd tell the culprit that there's still proof remaining, and that the police is yet unable to get it.

We could use that message board where the leaked information was posted before!

IT'S NOT FALSEHOOD.

You mean that the police would spread falsehoods?

The prosecutor would get to us for...

Wait!

They'd definitely take the bait!

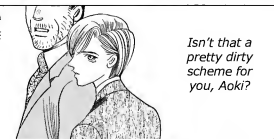
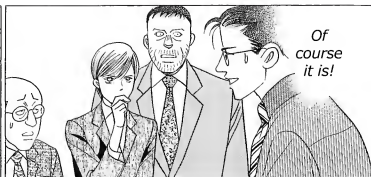
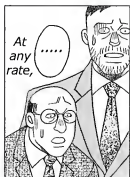
And,

This idiot 'honestly' believes that there's a photo of the crime on that phone...

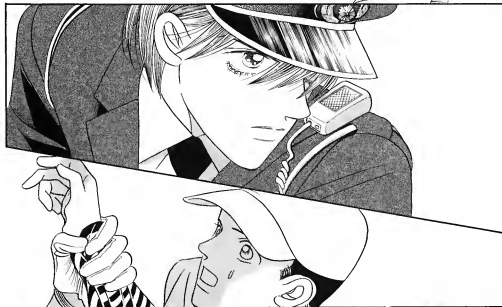
Correct?

Yes!

The ones that spread this information aren't us... It's some yet unconfirmed third party, so 'The Ninth' is actually a victim...







IT MIGHT RESULT
IN UP TO THREE
YEARS OF PRISON
OR A FINE OF UP
TO TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND YEN.

WITH
INTENTIONALLY
WRONG
INFORMATION.

IT APPLIES
TO FILLING
A FORM
LIKE THIS
ONE,

I
RECOGNIZE
YOUR FACE.

'SHIKI
HIROSHI'-
KUN

JUST
SHOT UP,
BAI
PROSECUTOR!

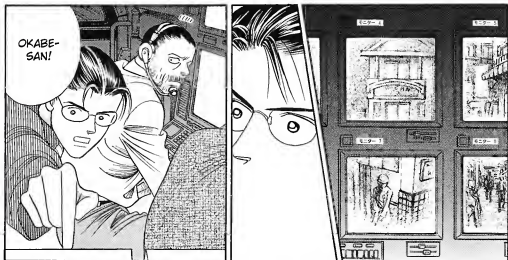
HUSH!

He's not
arrested or
interned so
that's not a
questioning!

AFTER SUCH
A COERCION-
LIKE
QUESTIONING
WE COULD
BE ACCUSED
OF
FORCING A
CONFESSION!



THAT'S WRONG,
IF THE
CONTENT IS NOT
FALSIFIED WITH
CRIMINAL INTENT,
THERE'S NO
PENALIZATION...







Shiiki-kun,



DID SOMEONE
ASK YOU
TO DO IT?



Shiiki-kun,
did you
look
inside?



So please
return it
to his
mother,
teacher.

I'll bring
Aritas bag
to school
tomorrow.



I'll bring it
tomorrow.



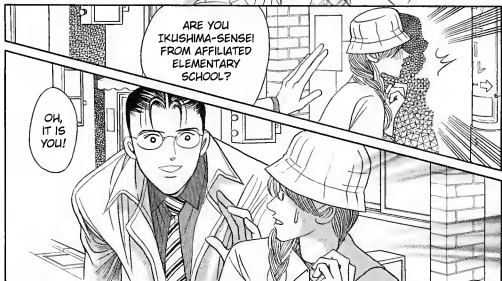
It's a
promise then.

Alright!



ARE YOU
IKUSHIMA-SENSEI
FROM AFFILIATED
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL?

OH,
IT IS
YOU!

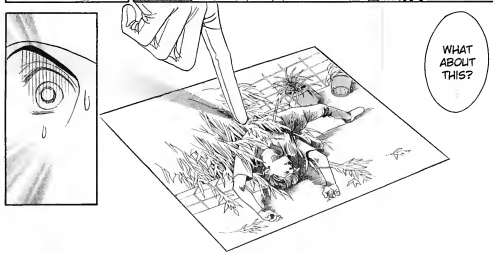


GOOD
AFTER-
NOON...

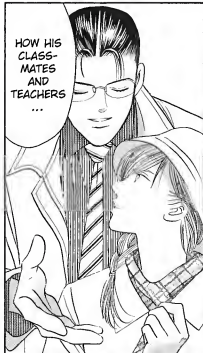


GOOD
AFTER-
NOON!









HOW HIS
CLASS-
MATES
AND
TEACHERS
...



HE
JUST
...

JUMP-
PED
OFF...



YOU CAN TELL
JUST FROM THIS
PICTURE WHAT HIS
ENVIRONMENT WAS
LIKE...

NO,
THAT'S
NOT MY
FAULT...

HE
JUST
KILLED
HIMSELF
ON HIS
OWN
...



...HAVE BEEN
BEHAVING
TOWARDS HIM,
TREATING HIM...

IKUSHIMA-SENSEI.

規正職員採用

YOU
CAN TELL IT
ALL FROM
THIS AWFUL
PICTURE,

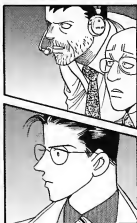


TEACHER
...!



WHY,

IS NO ONE
TOUCHING
THAT BOY?



THE CRIME SCENE
WOULD BE DAMAGED
AND THE GROUND
TRAMPLED BY PEOPLE
SEARCHING FOR ANY WAY
TO HELP THAT PERSON,
SO MUCH THAT THAT
IT'D BE A PROBLEM LATER
FOR THE FORENSICS AND
THE CORONER...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?



NORMALLY IF
AN ACCIDENT LIKE
THIS HAPPENED TO
A CLOSE PERSON,
ONE WOULD RUSH
OVER TO CHECK
FOR THE VITALS...
TOUCH AROUND
TO LOOK FOR
WOUNDS OR
ATTEMPT A
RESUSCITATION...

IN BABA, THE BOY'S
THAT DIED IN THE
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
CASE— SO WHY...



LIKE IT
WAS IN,
FOR
EXAMPLE,

NOT EVEN,

THAT ONE
SHOE?



WHY NO ONE
EVEN FIXED
HIS GLASSES
ON HIM?



WHY IS
NO ONE,

EVEN
THOUGH HE
FELL BEFORE
THE EYES OF
THE WHOLE
SCHOOL!

RUSHING TO
HELP HIM?



WAS THERE
NOTHING TO BE
DONE BEFORE
A TEACHER
TOOK OUT THE
CAMERA AND
PUSHED THE
SHUTTER?



Who
took this
picture?



Maki-san,
that kid!



He took
the phone!

KOBAN
POLICE

OKABE-
SAN!

CATCH
HIM,
AOKI!

SHIIKI-
KUN!!

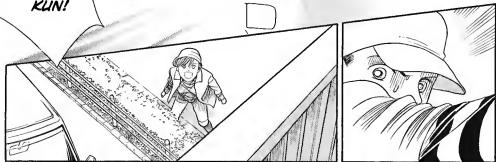
WAIT
THERE,
YOU BRAT!

Oka

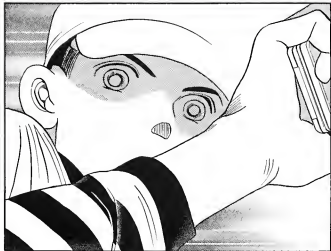


SHIIKI-
KUN!

The
phone...







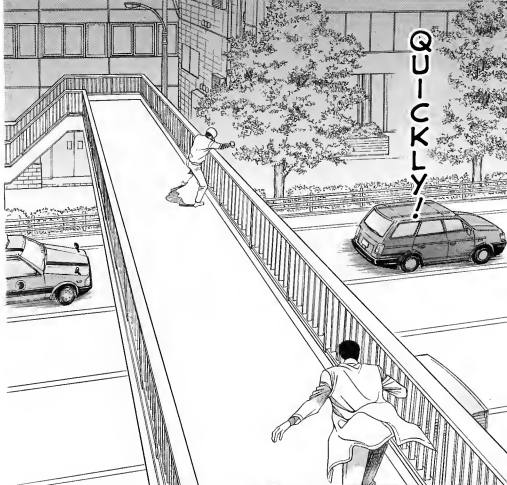
**THROW
IT
AWAY!**



**FROM
UP
THERE,**



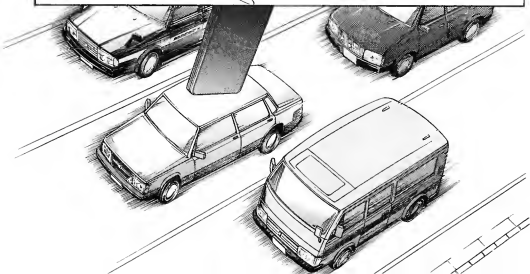
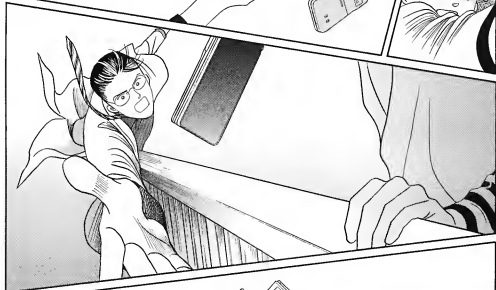
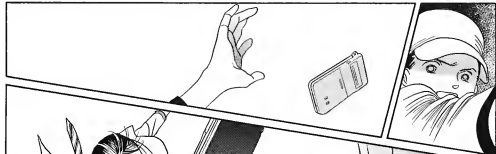
QUICKLY!

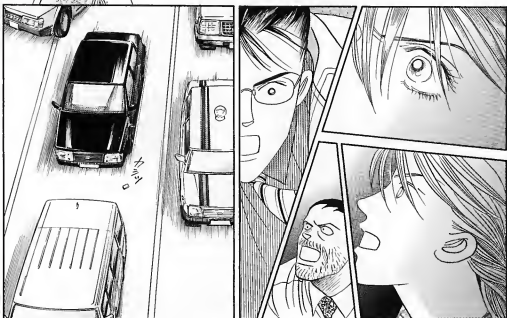
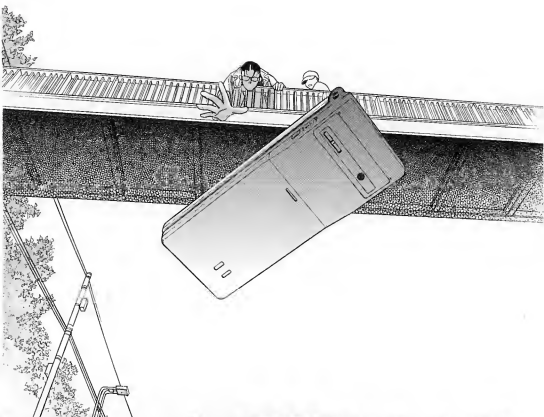


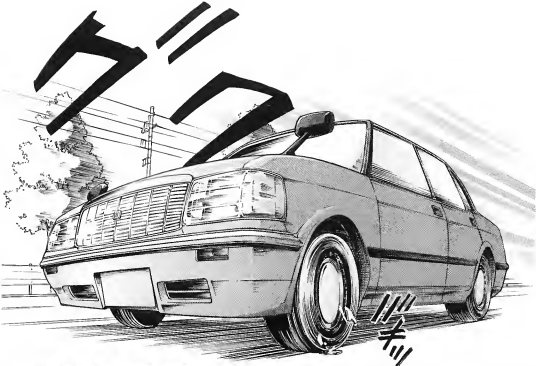
QUICKLY!

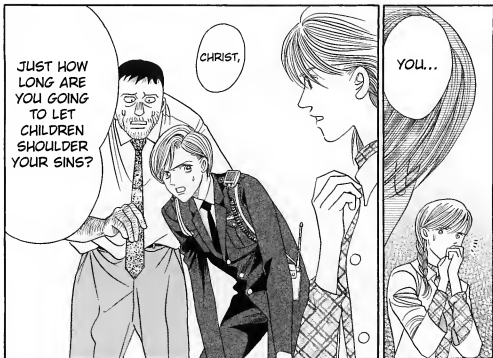
**DON'T
THROW IT,
IDIOT—
IF YOU DO, YOU
REALLY WON'T
GET HOME FOR
OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE!**













IT'S FINE,
IT'S MY
FAULT FOR
GETTING
CAUGHT
OFF
GUARD.

MAKI-SAN,
I'M SORRY,
JUST WHEN
I THOUGHT
I'LL CATCH
IT...



TELL YUKIKO-
SAN THAT
YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO
USE YOUR
PHONE FOR
A WHILE.

MAKI-
SAN...

YES...

YOU
CHASED
HIM
WELL.



EH?

...



EEH?!



OF COURSE
I WOULDN'T
BRING IT
OUT THERE.

MA...
MA...

MAKI-SAN,
THAT'S...
HUH? IS
THAT
MY...?

THE
REAL
ONE,

MY BAD, IT JUST
HAPPENED TO BE
THE SAME MODEL
SO I BORROWED
IT FOR A
MOMENT.

THE CELL
THAT GOT
DESTROYED
BACK THERE
WAS YOURS,
AOKI.

THAT'S
NOT THE
PROBLEM!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
'BORROWED'?
MAKI-SAN...

I'LL BUY
YOU A NEW
ONE.

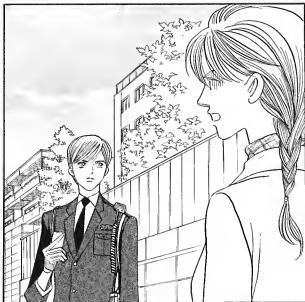
I HAD
SO MANY
PICS OF
YUKIKO-
SAN ON
IT...

BUT
...

.....
.....



THAT'S
RIGHT,
THIS IS,



ARITA'S CELL
THAT YOU WANTED
SO DESPERATELY
TO OBTAIN.



HERE,

I GOT PERMISSION
FROM ARITA'S
PARENTS, SO WE
CAN LOOK
THROUGH THE
CELL'S MEMORY.



IF ARITA
SHIN ACTUALLY
CAPTURED
THE CRIME
OR NOT?



YOU WENT SO
FAR FOR IT,
SO SHALL
WE CHECK
TOGETHER?





**DON'T
LOOK!**



**STOP
IT!**



**ALL
OF IT!**

**DELETE IT,
DELETE IT!**

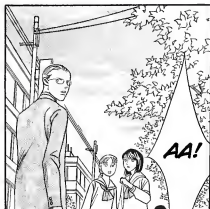


**MAKI-
SA...**

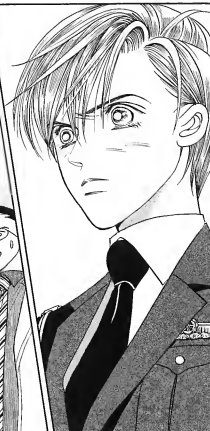
**RETURN IT,
YOU...**





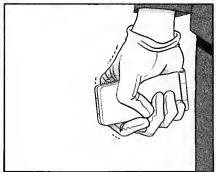


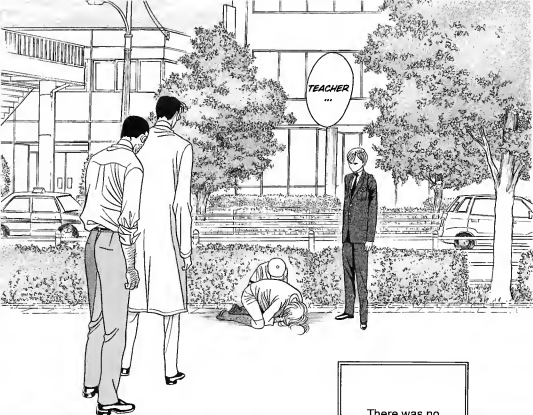
AA



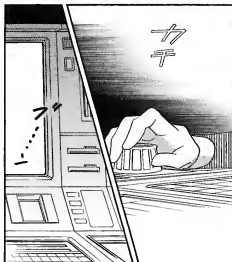
AA







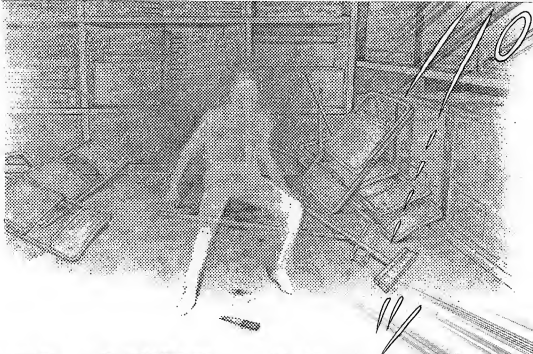
There was no
photo of the
crime scene on
Arita Shin's phone.



All the restored
pictures depicted
Ikushima Kyouko
with a kind,
teacher-like
smile.



In the
memory of
the phone
that
substituted
the boy for
his eyes,



THIS IS,

HE PICKS UP THE KNIFE AND WIPES OFF THE BLOOD AND FINGERPRINTS WITH HIS OWN CLOTHES.



IT'S BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE KNIFE IS STILL THERE.



AN IMAGE FROM ARITA SHIN WHO ENTERED THE GYM STORAGE ROOM JUST AFTER THE CULPRIT HAS LEFT.

THE REASON IS,



HE'S WIPING IT?

WHY?

IN HIS IMAGES WE'RE UNABLE TO DISCERN THE TEACHER'S, DEZAKI'S, FACE.





IT'S A
FULL-FLEDGED
COVER-UP.

THANKS TO
THAT HE'S
NOW IN
GREAT
TROUBLE.

THAT HE'S
COVERING
FOR THE
CULPRIT.



SO HE'S
NOW
WORRYING
ABOUT
THE HIDING
PLACE OF
THE
KNIFE.



AFTER WIPING
IT ALL OFF,
THE BOY
IS STILL
NERVOUS,



IN THE MEANWHILE,
THE BELL RINGS,
SO HE HURRIEDLY
BURIES IT IN ONE OF
THE FLOWER POTS
ARRANGED ON THE
LANDING OF THE
STAIRS AND RETURNS
TO CLASS.



HIS
LOCKER'S
SHOE
SHELF.



BUT,



AND THAT HE'LL
AWAIT A GOOD
MOMENT AND
TAKE IT BACK
HOME LATER.

HE
PROBABLY
THINKS THAT
NOW IT'S A
FINE PLACE,
AND NO ONE
WILL FIND
IT—



THE
EARTH-
QUAKE
HAPPENED.



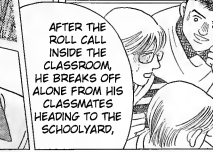
ARITA'S
CONCERN IS
NOW NOT IF
THERE WERE
ANY VICTIMS OR
INJURED IN THE
EARTHQUAKE,
BUT ONLY,



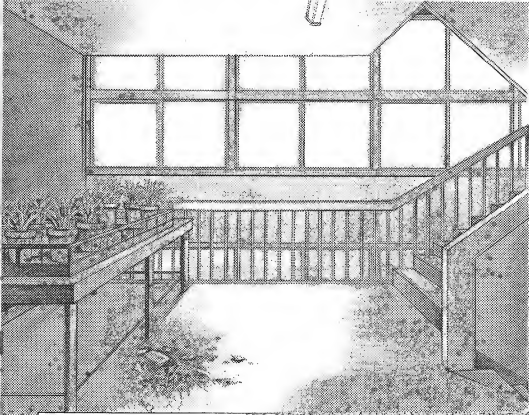
AND GOES
STRAIGHT
TO THAT
STAIRS
LANDING—



ONLY
THAT ONE
FLOWERPOT.



AFTER THE
ROLL CALL
INSIDE THE
CLASSROOM,
HE BREAKS OFF
ALONE FROM HIS
CLASSMATES
HEADING TO THE
SCHOOLYARD,



HIS
ALREADY
UNSTABLE
VISION
GREW
EVEN
MORE
DISTORTED
FROM
THERE.

BUT WHEN HE SAW
THE BLADE THAT
OPENED DURING
IMPACT HE
ASSUMED THAT IT
WAS A CALAMITY
FOLLOWING
HIS EVIL DEED,
AND FELL INTO A
DEEP PANIC STATE.

THE REASON WHY
THAT PARTICULAR
FLOWERPOT FELL
DESPITE THE
PROTECTIVE NET,
WAS THAT WHEN
HE WAS HURRYING
TO PUT THE EARTH
BACK THE
PEBBLES FROM
THE TOP FELL
TO THE SIDE AND
BOTTOM AND
THE POT LOST
STABILITY,



Where?

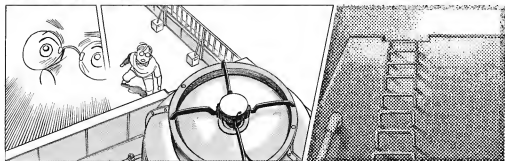
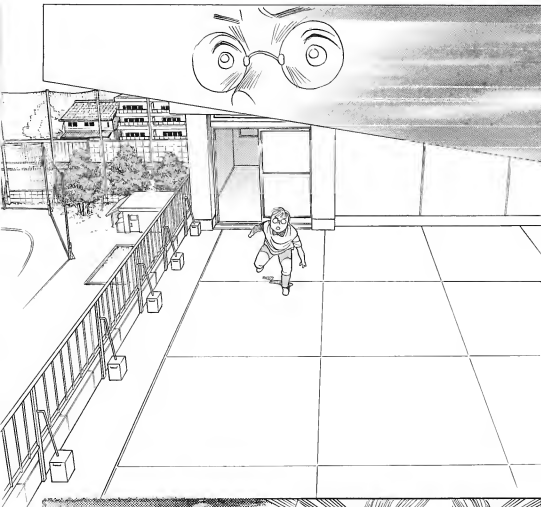


Where?



THEN,

EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NOWHERE TO RUN FROM THERE, HE KEPT CLIMBING UP AND UP, SEARCHING FOR A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE THE KNIFE LIKE A SMALL ANIMAL—





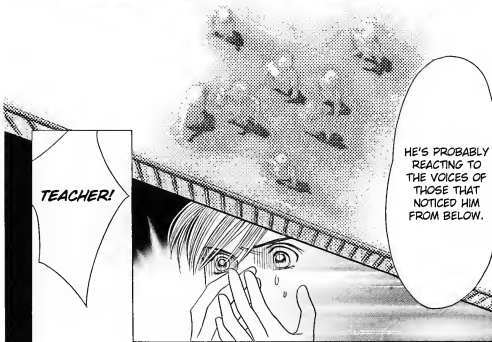
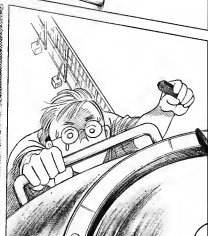
Here
should
be fine!



HERE,



THAT'S
WHERE HE
STOPS HIS
MOVEMENT,
AND LOOKS
DOWN.



TEACHER!

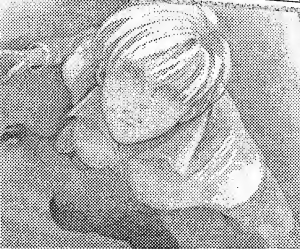
HE'S PROBABLY
REACTING TO
THE VOICES OF
THOSE THAT
NOTICED HIM
FROM BELOW.

**TEACHER!
ON THE
ROOF!**

AH!

HUH?

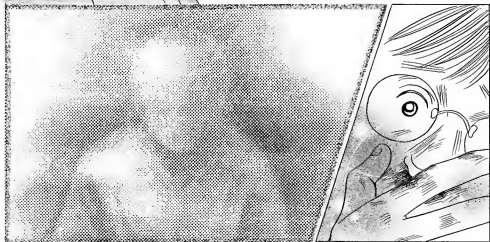
**IT'S
ARITA!**



Arita-kun!

WHAT
IS IT?
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

Arita-
kun!



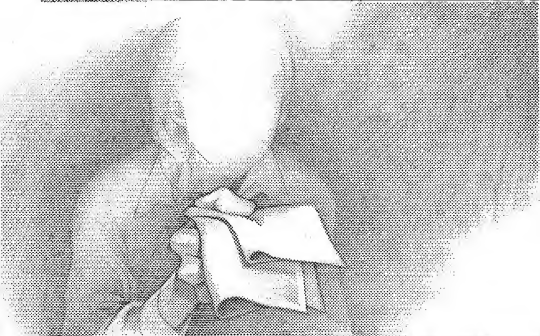


It's fine,
I'll go home
and tend
to it...

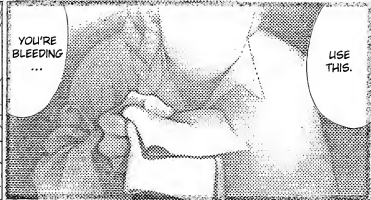


Fell down?
Is it true?
You're
always...

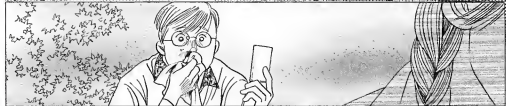
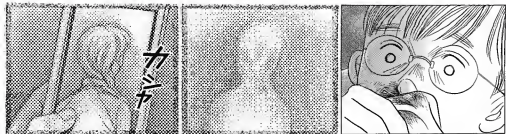
It's ok,
I just fell
down.

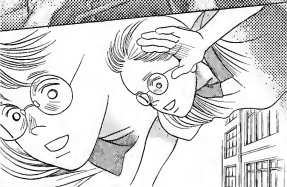


YOU'RE
BLEEDING
...



USE
THIS.







STOP!



**THAT'S
ENOUGH
...**



**PLEASE
STOP...**


**ENOUGH
...!**





IT WAS
DISCOVERED
ON TOP OF
THE WATER
TANK.

THIS IS
THE KNIFE
ARITA SHIN
RISKED HIS
LIFE TO
HIDE.



BUT WE KEPT ON
THE PRETENDED
SEARCH IN ORDER
TO PUT PRESSURE
ON YOU.



WE FOUND IT
SOON AFTER
STARTING
THE MRI
INVESTIGATION,



AND AS
YOU JUST
SAW,

IN THE MRI,
THE PHONE,
OR ON THE
WEAPON,



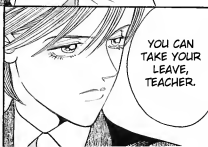
YOU DIDN'T
MOVE THEN,

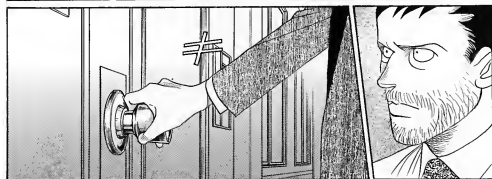
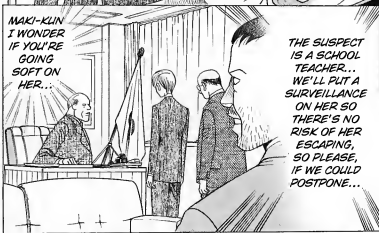
IT'S NOT OUR
SPECIALTY AT
THE NINTH TO
CROSS-EXAMINE
AND QUESTION
THE SUSPECTS.

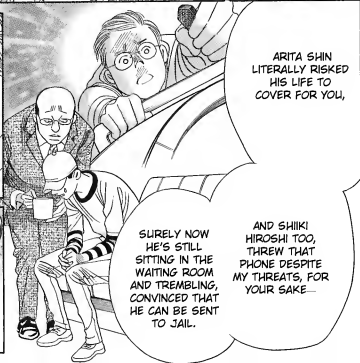
AND IT'S NOT AS
IF YOU BAWLING
AND SCREAMING
UPON SEEING
ARITA'S PHONE
WOULD COUNT
AS SUCH
PROOF.



THERE
REMAINED NO
PROOF THAT
WOULD ALLOW
US TO
DETERMINE
THAT YOU'RE
THE CULPRIT.







IF I'M
WRONG,
AND I
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
YOU,

AND

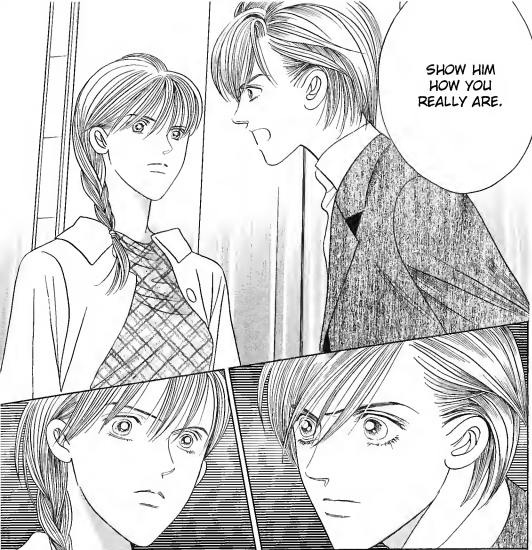
I MAY SOUND
RUDE, BUT TO
ME YOU DON'T
SEEM LIKE THAT
GOOD A TEACHER
FOR CHILDREN
TO IDOLIZE YOU.

YOU'RE A WONDERFUL
TEACHER, SO MUCH
THAT THE CHILDREN
WOULD PROTECT YOU
AT THEIR OWN COST...

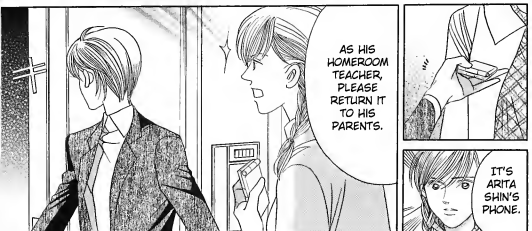
IF IN
REALITY...

THEN DON'T LEAVE
SHIKI-KUN BEARING
THE GUILT INSTEAD
OF YOU.

THIS
TIME,

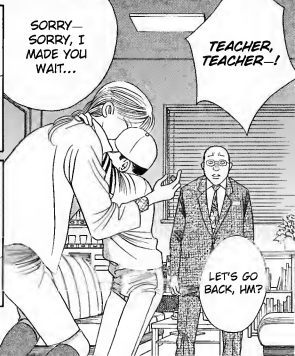


SHOW HIM
HOW YOU
REALLY ARE.



AS HIS
HOMEROOM
TEACHER,
PLEASE
RETURN IT
TO HIS
PARENTS.

IT'S
ARITA
SHIN'S
PHONE.



THAT'S BECAUSE,



CHIEF!

IF YOU'RE PUT
THERE YOU'LL STAY
ON IT FOREVER—

DON'T GET
CARRIED
AWAY WITH
THOSE
LIES!

WE'VE ALREADY
PUT YOUR FACE
ON THE POLICE
BLACK LIST.

YAMA-
MOTO,

IT'S ALRIGHT,
HE'S LYING! HE'S
JUST PLAYING
BAD, DON'T TAKE
HIM SERIOUSLY!



YOUR
EXPRESSION
WAS GOING
SOFT...



WHAT DID YOU
TALK ABOUT
WITH THAT KID?



AH...

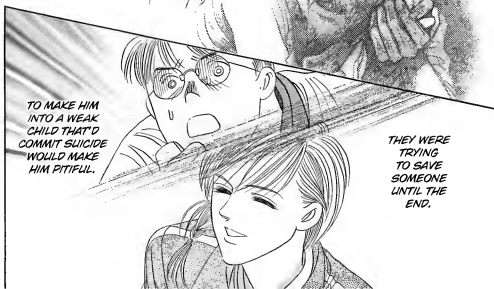
SORRY
FOR DOING IT
ON MY
OWN...
JUST...





THEY
WERE
TRYING
TO
PROTECT
SOMEONE
ELSE.

ARITA-KUN
AND
BABA-KUN...
THE TWO OF
THEM DIDN'T
COMMIT
SUICIDE...





IT'D MAKE
ARITA SEEM
PITIFUL.



DO YOU
REALLY THINK
THAT?



IT'S GOOD
THAT I DIDN'T
DIE.

OR AT
LEAST
I THINK...



YES...




The
scars.

You can't
see them
unless
you look
closely...



THIS
TIME...



OF THE TWO BOYS
WHO DIED, ONE TRIED
TO HELP A PERSON
THAT REALLY WASN'T
THERE, THAT HIS BRAIN
CREATED AND MADE
HIM SEE...

IN THIS
CASE,



AND THE OTHER
COULDN'T SEE
PEOPLE WHO
WERE THERE.



WERE THE
BOTH OF
THESE CASES
SPECIAL BY
CHANCE, OR,



CHIEF!



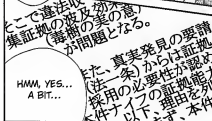
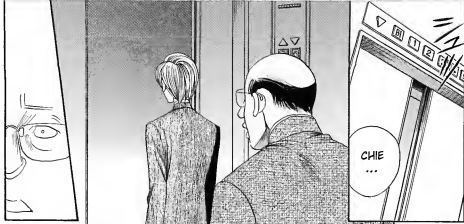
THAT'S JUST
TWO BRAINS OF
BOYS' WHO DIED
ACCIDENTALLY
BECAUSE
OF THE
EARTHQUAKE!



CREATING WORLDS JUST THAT DIFFERENT FROM PERSON TO PERSON?

OR COULD IT BE THAT OUR BRAINS - OUR EYES - ARE BY NATURE...





ALSO AOKI-SAN,
YOU'RE STANDING
IN MY LIGHT
SOURCE, SO IT'S
A BIT DARK FOR
ME TO SEE...

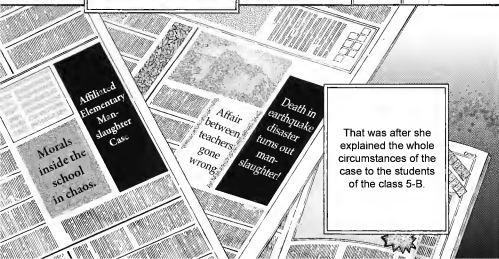
WHY BRING IT
DOWN SO MUCH?
AREN'T WE ALL
ELITE?

HOW ABOUT
WRITING IT SO A
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHILD COULD
READ IT?

THINK ABOUT A
CHILD WRITING
A LETTER...



It was the next day, that
Ikushima Kyouko
confessed to lethally
wounding Dezaki Atsushi,
and turned herself in.



Morals
inside the
school
in chaos.

Affiliated
Elementary
Man-
slaughter
Case.

Affair
between
teachers
gone
wrong.

Death in
earthquake
disaster
turns out
man-
slaughter!

That was after she
explained the whole
circumstances of the
case to the students
of the class 5-B.

Yamamoto
Kenji,

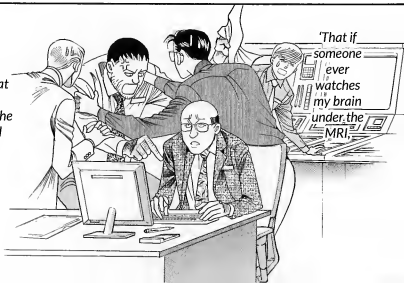


Kept extending his work
experience at 'the Ninth'
while maintaining his
position after Aoki, Koike
and Soga of people most
often bullied by the
Section Chief.

'I'm sure'

'If that's so,'

They'll notice that
the Yamamoto
Kenji's 'World as he
sees it' changed
a lot since I
came here.



'That if
someone
ever
watches
my brain
under the
MRI,'